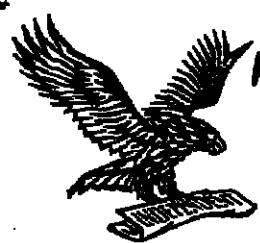


VIEW IT FOR YOURSELF: TWO TICKETS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE TO SEE **the avengers**

PAGE 8 REVIEW



THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,691

MONDAY 17 AUGUST 1998

(1RS0p) 45p

IN THE NEWS SECTION

Premiership: best coverage

WITH 11 PAGES OF SPORT

IN THE BROADSHEET REVIEW

Ian Dury: Reasons to be cheerful

THE DEBORAH ROSS INTERVIEW

Married to the job

PRIVATE LIVES, ARTS, COMMENT

& NETWORK

'If this is peace, what is war?'

THE BOMB was so devastating that most of the anger has not yet burst through. Omagh is still at the stage of shock, numbness and bewilderment about why such diabolical savagery should have been visited upon it on a sunny Saturday afternoon.

The grief is in its early phase, for few in the town can really comprehend the scale of its loss. The grief will build over the coming days, accompanied by anger against the bombers and what they did.

They killed nine children, 14 women and five men, snuffing out a total of 28 lives. Eleven people are still critically ill in hospital. Northern Ireland has had many bad days, but this was the worst of them, a new record death toll, a new low.

Yesterday came the VIP visitors, including the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and the Irish President, Mary McAleese, to signal their sympathy and support. Next came the lists of the dead, reminiscent of the casualty lists posted up during the First and Second World Wars.

Then will come the full details of how families have been affected, some losing more than one member, some suffering more than one injury.

One family has lost three generations: Avril Monaghan, 30, heavily pregnant with twins, her 18-month-old daughter, Maura, and mother Mary Grimes, 65, were on a shopping trip when the bomb exploded; three schoolboys, two aged 12 and one eight, from neighbouring Co Donegal, were killed alongside two Spanish friends on a shopping trip.

Next will come the funerals, too many for one small town, too many for one community to bear a day or days filled with nothing but burials. The sense of loss will be communal as well as personal; that shared burden may make the funerals slightly easier to get through.

But after that will come everlasting loss for so many families: the chair where a mother used to sit, a father gone for ever, a child's empty room.

The recent emphasis on looking after victims of the Troubles has brought to light just how many people never really got over the effects of violence, even decades after the event. Many who think they have recovered find that years afterwards they go through flashbacks and nightmares.

The Omagh bomb has condemned hundreds more people to the status of victims. Two hundred were injured and hundreds have lost loved ones; some will now go through life as orphans, or amputees, or bearing terrible physical and mental scars.

Until the bomb went off, at 3.10pm on Saturday, Omagh might have been rated a reasonably

By DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

sonably lucky town by Northern Ireland standards. Like many towns it had its share of killings, and had residents killed elsewhere, but most of those deaths occurred back in 1973 and 1974, with another outbreak of killings around 1979.

While not trouble-free in the years that followed, it was only occasionally touched by violence. Most of the casualties have been members of the security forces killed by the IRA in or near the town. There are many republicans in the vicinity,

busy, housing as it does a coffee shop, a couple of clothes shops and a pub. It became even busier as police shepherded people towards it, a telephone caller having warned of a bomb at the courthouse some 250 metres away.

The fact that the street was packed helps explain why the bomb caused the highest-ever death toll. The new school term begins in two weeks time, and some of the women killed were buying uniforms for their children, uniforms which some children will now never wear.

The explosion left little of the car and little of many of the victims. The blast, the disintegrated car, the glass from the shop windows, masonry from the buildings, scythed the people down, lacerating and dismembering. Those first on the scene told, shocked, of the details we would rather not hear: of battered prams, of the blackened bodies of children, of detached legs, arm and hands.

The rest of Northern Ireland looked on in steadily growing horror. First, came television newscasters asking off-duty doctors to report urgently to Tyrone County Hospital in the town; then reports that several people might be dead; then rumours that 12 could have died.

People could hardly believe it when the official death toll reached a dozen: why on earth should Omagh be attacked? Who would want to cause casualties on such a scale? Aren't the Troubles supposed to be on the wane?

The focal point of horror had, meanwhile, shifted to the Omagh hospital, where wards and corridors were running red with blood. A surgeon described it as "a battlefield". A nurse said people were "running, screaming, crying". The hospital took in 96 women, 22 children and 30 men, some of them arriving in busloads.

By yesterday patients had been dispatched to five other hospitals. Distraught people spent many hours awaiting word of their relatives and friends: some had to wait all night, hoping against hope, only to be told yesterday the news they had dreaded hearing.

The worth of the whole peace process will now be re-examined by the public. One fearful and upset woman in Omagh asked yesterday: "If this is peace, what's war?"

London, Dublin and nearly all the major parties, north and south, were already doing their best yesterday to shelter and protect the political process which has been made.

With the exception of the Real IRA and the Rev Ian Paisley, few major figures in Ireland want to see the abandonment of the peace process and a re-



A grief-stricken man outside the Omagh leisure centre, where police and social services have set up an information office. Peter Morrison/PA

INSIDE



Security crackdown, Page 2

Carnival hit by blast; The missing mother was my cousin, Page 3

The victims; Who speaks for the Real IRA? Page 4

Fergal Keane; Leading article, Review, page 3

ity, but somehow they were never quite as active, or as militant, as those in comparable areas elsewhere.

It has its social problems, with a developing drug culture, and its share of deprivation. As is the case almost everywhere in Northern Ireland there is a degree of religious segregation: its residents talk, for example, about "the Protestant end of the town".

It is about 60 per cent Catholic and 40 per cent Protestant, a balance reflected in the fact that the council has a Sinn Féin chairman with a Unionist deputy. Relations between the two communities are not totally harmonious, but nor are they poisonous.

One Omagh man said: "Okay, it's not a shining example, but it's not the worst place either."

On Saturday, though, the centre of Omagh became the worst place imaginable for its people. The narrow street where the car bomb had been parked was

turn to the drawing-board. The process is a long and difficult road but, the body politic reckons, it is the only road ahead.

The Real IRA is held responsible for the bombing, though nobody can fathom what it hoped to achieve. Attacks which cause major civilian casualties are regarded by republican groups as counter-productive setbacks. The Real IRA has tried to kill soldiers and police before now with mortar attacks on security bases, but until Saturday it had never taken life.

Its speciality has been attacks on town centres with large bombs, though to first give warnings and depend on the efficiency of the Royal Ulster Constabulary to clear the area. The police view is that Omagh was a deliberate effort to take life, but this leaves questions unanswered.

If inflicting large-scale casualties was its intention it is more likely to have targeted a Protestant town rather than a mixed one such as Omagh, where the dead were bound to include nationalists. Dead nationalists are bad for republican business.

The organisation has also left itself open to the most stringent police and Army response, for the near-universal sentiment is that the security forces should go in after them, and go in hard. This sentiment is visible among nationalists as well as Unionists, and in the south as well as the north.

The Irish Prime Minister, Bertie Ahern, has already spoken of "crushing" the group and of "ruthlessly" suppressing it. British ministers are talking in similar terms. Mr Blair said there should be "no hiding place" for the bombers. "We must make sure not merely [that] we are taking all the security measures we can, but

that we build up such support that we allow these people to be driven out. There will be people that know who are responsible for this atrocity. We have got to create a climate in which there is no hiding place for them."

But it really hardly matters to the citizens of Omagh whether the Real IRA meant to kill all those people, or whether the deaths flowed from some sort of foul-up. Everyone knows who is to blame for the carnage: the Real IRA is the cause of all this present misery and all the future suffering.

The buildings of Omagh can be replaced and repaired, but murdered people cannot be, and the injuries of many will never fully heal. The families of the dead have been left to salvage what they can from the ruins, to try to divine some meaning or purpose in it all, and somehow to try to make sense of so much senseless murder.

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Clinton lawyer pledges 'whole truth'

AS PRESIDENT Bill Clinton prepared for the most perilous day of his five-and-a-half-year-old presidency, his lawyer made a dramatic intervention to try to quieten speculation about his testimony to the grand jury.

In a statement issued at noon yesterday, David Kendall dismissed media reports about his client's strategy and insisted that Mr Clinton would tell the truth and only the truth.

"There is apparently an enormous amount of rabid speculation about the President's testimony tomorrow," the statement read. "The truth is the truth. Period. And that's how the President will testify."

Mr Clinton is scheduled to give evidence to the grand jury this afternoon about his relationship with the former White House trainee, Monica Lewinsky.

By MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

sk. At issue is whether he lied about the relationship when he answered questions under oath last January, and whether he told Ms Lewinsky also to lie under oath.

Mr Kendall's statement came amid a flurry of reports that Mr Clinton had settled on an admission of an "inappropriate relationship" with Ms Lewinsky that would not entail any admission of perjury.

Bob Woodward, the Wash-

ington Post reporter who made his name with the Watergate investigation, quoted an unnamed source "who has spoken with the President and his legal team" as saying Mr Clinton would change his account to admit a sexual relationship, but had to prepare his family.

The Associated Press cited two unnamed presidential advisers as saying the breakthrough came on Saturday when he admitted he had had a sexual relationship with Ms Lewinsky. "He may not have used the word 'sex'," said one, "but he has finally broken through that barrier."

Ms Lewinsky, who gave her testimony 10 days ago after bargaining for total immunity from prosecution, reportedly told the grand jury she had had a sexual relationship with Mr Clinton over an 18-month period to December 1996.

The airwaves yesterday rang with the voices of lawyers, former colleagues and supporters of the President almost begging him to tell the truth, arguing that the personal and political cost of not doing so would be greater.

The chairman of the Senate judiciary committee, Orrin Hatch, coupled a renewed plea for the truth with a warning that if he perjured himself before a grand jury, Congress would have no choice but to impeach.

Moment of truth, page 10

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1,000 mink were released from a farm where 6,000 were set free two weeks ago
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A baby missing for three days was found on a mountain beside his dead grandfather
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Serb forces have taken the main rebel stronghold in south-western Kosovo
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Biotech firms should have an independent watchdog to regulate the industry
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Schumacher won the Hungarian Grand Prix closing the gap on Mika Hakkinen
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Cheaper alcohol for students

Students' cost of living is rocketing except in one respect - booze. A new guide shows that alcohol prices for students have actually fallen slightly. Page 5

Threat to the red fire engine

Like the telephone box, the red fire engine is a national icon. But just as BT switched to new clear booths, fire services are painting their engines white. Page 7

US asylum seekers cost £10m

Britain is spending up to £10m a year jailing refugees who are being arrested as they pass through British airports on their way to seek asylum in America. Page 8

Government lied about deterrent

The Government has been accused of misleading the public over the cost of Britain's nuclear deterrent to the tune of up to £1bn a year. Page 9

FOREIGN NEWS

PAGES 10-12

Congo mobs turn on Westerners

Foreigners working in the Congo capital of Kinshasa were fleeing the city as a rebel army advanced from the east. Page 11

Hunt starts for Swedish monster

Hunters began a search of Sweden's Great Lake for a monster - a horse-like or snake-like creature - said to have inhabited it for at least 360 years. Page 11

Failure for Fossett's balloon bid

Steve Fossett's attempt to be the first person to circle the world non-stop in a balloon appeared to have failed after his emergency locator beacon activated. Page 12

BUSINESS NEWS

PAGES 13-15

Flextech's Roger Luard, 49, dies

Roger Luard, chief executive of Flextech, the television group, died last weekend, it was announced yesterday. Mr Luard, 49, had been on sick leave. Page 13

DIY market set for merger mania

The DIY retail market is set to consolidate, with smaller players joining forces to survive the economic slowdown, according to an influential new report. Page 13

SPORTS NEWS

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Owen helps Liverpool to a win

Michael Owen scored the winning goal as Liverpool kicked off their Premiership season with a 2-1 win at Southampton. Page 26

England beat Sri Lanka

England beat Sri Lanka by 36 runs in the triangular one-day international at Lord's. Page 26

MONDAY REVIEW

20-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

Fergal Keane

'The time of the butchers is passing. You may find that hard to believe on this sad Monday, but I ask you to take an act of faith.' Page 3

Steve Richards

'Belatedly, the Blairites have started to worry that the likes of Liz Davies could be elected, while loyal moderates could face defeat.' Page 4

Helen Wornack

'Russia's problems are usually presented as highly dramatic. In reality, things just get bleaker.' Page 5

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New security crackdown

BY COLIN BROWN,
ANDREW BUNCOMBE
AND ALAN MURDOCH

A SECURITY crackdown on the "Real IRA" renegades operating south of the border was being planned last night by the British and Irish governments as Tony Blair promised to hunt down the terrorists who exploded the 500lb bomb in Omagh.

The reintroduction of internment was not being ruled out following calls by the Ulster Unionists for members of the breakaway group to be arrested without charge. But Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, gave a clear signal that the two governments believe "other measures" could prove more effective.

The chief constables of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Garda are to report to the two governments on what security action is needed across the border, and new measures were promised within the next few days, if they are felt necessary.

Tony Blair last night sought to prevent Unionists and loyalists from hitting back and destroying the peace - attempting to unite all shades of political opinion against the renegade group in a round of meetings at Stormont with political leaders after cutting short his holiday in France.

His official spokesman said the terrorists would be given no hiding place amid rising hopes that they will be "shopped" to the police or the official IRA by their own community.

Unprecedented condemnation of the bombing by the Sinn Féin leaders, Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness, was seen by Downing Street as a significant break with the past.

"The change in the political situation should not be overlooked," said the Prime Minister's official spokesman. "Overseas or at home, these people have got no friends in



Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott (centre), Northern Ireland's Deputy First Minister Seamus Mallon (left), and John McFall (right), newly appointed Northern Ireland minister, surveying the devastation in Omagh yesterday. Brian Little/PA

high places in any civilised country on earth. They have got no votes, no political support, no great numerical support. They stand for absolutely nothing but terror. They are basically criminals and in some cases psychopaths."

Mr McGuinness hinted the nationalist community will come out against the renegade group, raising hopes that they will be identified. He said: "I think people will make it crystal clear that these people should not be allowed to wreck the peace process."

A special Irish cabinet meeting on Wednesday will decide on measures to strengthen security and surveillance operations.

After chairing an emergency meeting of the Irish cabinet security committee, at which the latest intelligence reports were studied, Mr Ahern pledged "whatever resources are necessary" to deal with the new threat.

He said he believed the republican hero Bobby Sands "wouldn't have stood over the horrific events of yesterday" - seen as a pointed reference to the sister of the dead hunger striker who has founded a dissident republican pressure group. The bombing increased speculation that the split in the IRA could lead to a new and bloody feud.

Andrew Mackay, the Tory spokesman on Northern Ireland, said he believed the lives of Sinn Féin leaders could be at risk. Calling for the IRA to inform on the breakaway group

which carried out the bombing, Mr Mackay said: "Adams and McGuinness could be quite worried for their own safety."

"If you look at Irish history, when there are splits in the republican movement, they do in the leaders of the mainstream group. I would make sure the security forces get these people first."

"I believe there is an opportunity here for the mainstream republican Sinn Féin-IRA to end the cancer of terrorism in Northern Ireland by cooperating because they know who these people are. They know the terrorist underworld. If their words mean anything, they must be matched by actions. They should help to arrest these people and wipe out the rest."

WORDS OF CONDEMNATION

"It is impossible to contemplate, to get in the mind of anyone who could do this ... We will not let these people wreck the future."
Tony Blair

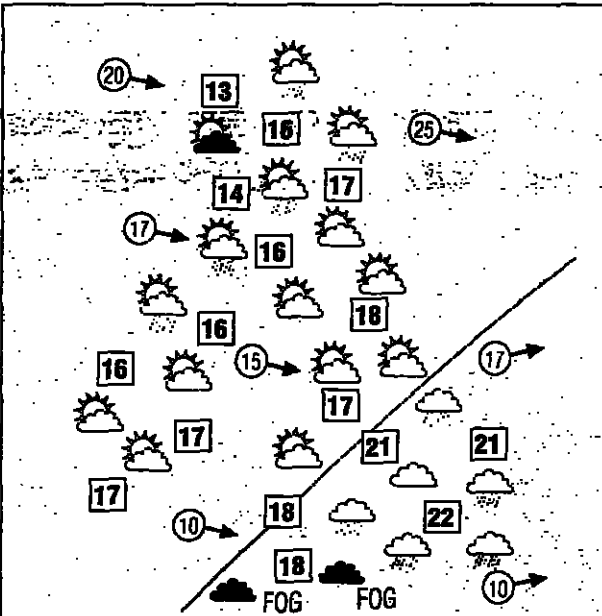
"No stone will be left unturned until we bring these people to justice."
Ronnie Flanagan, Chief Constable of the RUC

"This appalling act ... is designed to wreck the process and everyone should work to ensure the peace process continues."
Martin McGuinness, Sinn Féin chief negotiator

"I have as much respect for the British Government as I have for the IRA. They both of them have played this game of telling people we can win this by concession after concession."
Ian Paisley, Democratic Unionist Party leader

"Once again, blind violence is attempting to impede the difficult path of peace and productive harmony ... my earnest hope ... is that the Irish people of goodwill will not succumb to violence and that they will persevere."
Pope John Paul II

BRITAIN TODAY



FORECAST

General situation Dull and humid across England and Wales with coastal and hill fog and drizzly rain in places, but later becoming fresher and brighter in the north and west. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have sunny spells and well scattered showers.

Can't S, SW, E & SE England, London, E Anglia, E Midlands: Dull and humid with drizzly rain in places. Fog over the hills and at times towards the coasts. A light south-west wind. Max temp 21-24C (70-75F).

W Midlands, S Wales: Rather misty this morning with drizzly rain. Fresher later with sunny breaks developing. A light south-west wind, later westerly. Max temp 19-22C (66-72F).

N Wales, NW, Cent N & NE England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Dry with sunny spells. A light to moderate westerly wind. Max temp 19-21C (66-70F).

Channel Is: Foggy and dull with drizzle at times. A light south-west wind. Max temp 21C (70F).

N Ireland: Sunny spells and the odd light shower. A light to moderate westerly wind. Max temp 17-19C (63-64F).

SW & NW Scotland, W Isles: Sunny spells and scattered showers. A moderate to fresh west to north-west wind. Max temp 14-17C (56-63F).

SE & NE Scotland, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen: Some sunshine at times but also isolated showers. A moderate to fresh west to north-west wind. Max temp 16-21C (61-70F).

OUTLOOK

Only the odd shower in western and northern Scotland on Tuesday with plenty of sunshine for all parts. Rain in western Scotland and Northern Ireland on Wednesday but elsewhere it will be dry with plenty of sunshine.

TRAVEL

Roads: London: M1/A12 link road. Various restrictions in place. Until 31st December 1999. West Midlands: M5 between J5 (Bham west) and J2 (Budeley). Resurfacing work with narrow lanes both ways. Until 12th October.

West Yorkshire: M1 between J43 Stourton and J42 (Lidbury Interchange) (M62). Roadworks with 50mph speed limit. Until 1st November.

Buckinghamshire: M40 between junctions 1a (M25) & 3 Wycombe East. Three

narrow lanes both ways and a 50 mph speed limit in force. Until 1st January 1999.

Berks: M4 between J60 Maidenhead and J7 Slough. New road layout with a 50mph speed limit in a new half-mile carriageway during flood relief work. Until 30th November.

Bristol: M5 J19-19. Major Roadworks on Avonmouth Bridge until 1st January 2001.

AA Roadworks: Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

LIGHTING UP

Belfast	8.52pm to 6.04am
Birmingham	8.25pm to 5.54am
Bristol	8.25pm to 6.00am
Glasgow	8.48pm to 5.54am
London	8.20pm to 5.50am
Manchester	8.34pm to 5.53am
Newcastle	8.36pm to 5.46am

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
Avonmouth	3.08	10.8	3.42	10.6
Birmingham	7.34	7.5	8.16	7.5
Cardiff	1.43	3.9	2.20	3.9
Dun Laoghaire	8.14	3.7	8.57	3.8
Edinburgh	1.13	4.4	1.52	4.5
Fishguard	10.37	1.3	11.26	1.64
Glasgow	8.42	3.1	9.05	3.1
Hull (Albert Dock)	2.31	7.5	3.03	7.6
Liverpool	7.36	7.9	8.21	7.9
London	2.22	5.6	3.09	5.6
Newquay	1.23	5.7	2.05	5.7
Penzance	4.57	3.8	1.31	4.6
Porthcawl	2.30	1.4	3.15	1.5
Portsmouth	4.32	3.8	5.16	3.7
Rosyth	7.14	7.1	7.59	7.1
Scarborough	12.56	5.0	-	-
Southampton	7.12	3.9	7.34	4.0
Stornoway	8.34	7.1	9.02	7.1
Wick	7.50	3.0	8.33	3.0

Height measured in metres

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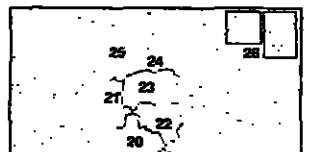
	NO ₂	O ₃	PM ₁₀
London	Good	Good	Good
S England	Good	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good	Good
C England	Good	Good	Good
N England	Good	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good	Good

SUN & MOON

Sun rises:	05.49
Sun sets:	20.20
Moon rises:	01.10
Moon sets:	17.03
New moon:	August 22

WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts call 0800 5000 followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).



AIR QUALITY

	NO ₂	O ₃	PM ₁₀
London	Good	Good	Good
S England	Good	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good	Good
C England	Good	Good	Good
N England	Good	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good	Good

YESTERDAY

EXTREMES

Warmest: London 25C (77F)
Coldest: Spadeadam, Cumbria 12C (54F)
Wettest: Thre, Inner Hebrides 120 in
Sunniest: Salisbury, Wiltshire 12.5 hrs.

Windiest: London 10.1 m/s (23 mph)

Wettest: London 10.1 m/s (23 mph)

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A passer-by with a video camera captured the moment of the explosion in Omagh town centre on Saturday, and the shock, the death, injury and destruction and the attempts to help the victims

Children laughed as they prepared for a carnival. Then they were blown apart

BY STEVE BOGGAN,
ANDREW BUNCOMBE AND
KIM SENGUPTA

IT WAS carnival day in Omagh and the air was filled with the laughter of children. Bunting festooned the bustling streets on a warm and happy market day in a town that was enjoying the new peace.

Mothers were there with their sons and daughters to buy school uniforms for the new term while, a short distance away, excited youngsters on 14 floats put the finishing touches to fancy dress costumes and face paintings.

Shoppers had been evacuated from one end of the high street because of a bomb scare, but no one took it too seriously. It happened all the time.

And then the bomb went off. In a split second, the force of the blast along with shrapnel and shards of glass had taken their toll on flesh and bone. Dozens lay dead or dying and, as masonry dust and smoke cleared, scenes of unimaginable horror greeted the survivors.

It was 3.10pm. The earlier bomb warning had been made in a telephone call to the BBC. The caller said the device was at the courthouse in Main Street. Police reacted quickly, clearing the area and shepherding people to the other end of the street, inadvertently leading them, like lambs to the slaughter, towards the real site of the 500lb car bomb near the junction of Market Street and Dublin Road.

When it went off, hundreds of shoppers, predominantly women and children, were nearby. Ten minutes later, the carnival procession would have been in full flow.

The blast brought down walls and roofs on top of people and sent bricks and glass hurtling into them. When the noise subsided, witnesses spoke of seeing people with horrific injuries lying motionless while others screamed hysterically or walked aimlessly in deep shock.

"The first thing I saw was a wee boy lying with his mouth open and his eyes open and blood all over him. He was dead," said Louis Godfrey, 38. "He was about six years old."

"There was one girl about 21 who just sat there hugging this wee fella who was dead. He was about eight years old. She didn't want to let him go. She said she wanted to stay with him until his parents came. She kept saying over and over, 'What has he ever done on anybody? He's so young. He doesn't even know the meaning of life'. Eventually a policeman persuaded her to let go."

While bloodsoaked survivors and policemen began tearing at the rubble to pull out the injured, panic began to spread as people from other parts of the town rushed to the scene to search for relatives.

Dorothy Boyle, 59, wept openly as she described the scene. "I saw bodies lying everywhere," she said. "I saw them being put in bags and being zipped up."

She said she saw a young pregnant woman whose legs had been blown off, while another woman in a wheelchair had been screaming for help. "There was one boy had half his leg blown off and it was lying there with the wee shoe still on it. He didn't cry or anything. He was just in shock."

Ian Frew was working in the Salad Bowl shop close to the bomb when it went off. Standing in a bloodstained T-shirt, he said: "Everybody just dropped. People lay dead all around. There was a baby lying in the window of Kells shop. It was just lying there dead, its pushchair standing beside it."

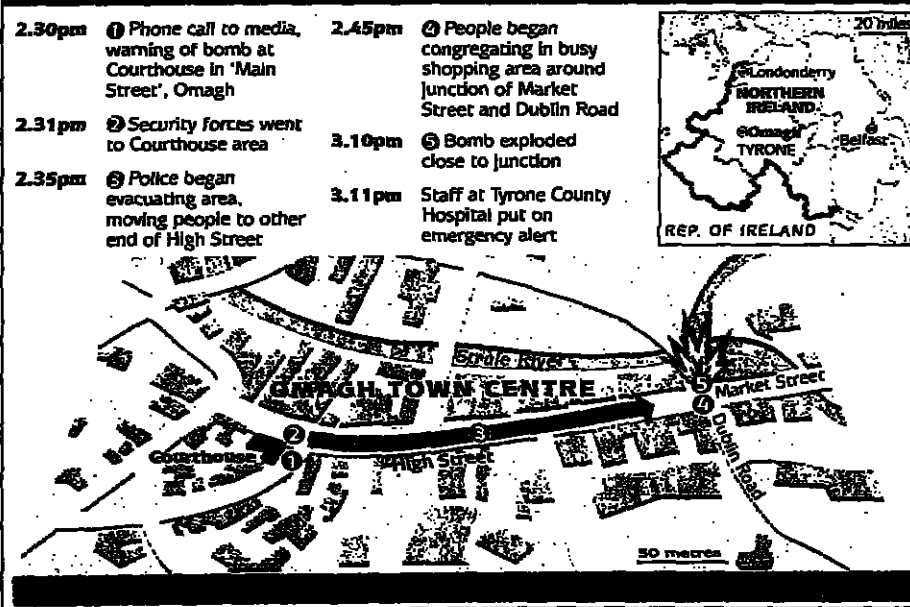
John Atkins, who had been shopping with his wife Ellen said: "For the first time I realised there was a smell to



RUC officers yesterday examining the debris in the devastated small town of Omagh, where few can yet comprehend the scale of loss

Alastair Grant/HAP

THE AFTERNOON OF TERROR



Inside, doctors and nurses worked desperately to save the victims amid chaotic scenes.

One woman was rushing around touching at the sleeves of officials and pleading: "Have you seen my boy? He's just a wee boy. He went out to the shops he hasn't been back." A nurse asked for the child's name and the woman replied: "He's my boy, he's my only son."

Father John Gilmore did what he could to comfort the injured and their relatives.

"There were people on the floors, mattresses and chairs. Some of the early ones were very badly injured. Some I anointed on mattresses on the floor. It is something I have never experienced before."

"Every one of those people was a tragedy in their own right. When you think of how many you have to think of the scale of the tragedy."

Dr Clive Russell and his team worked to the point of exhaustion as a steady stream of

victims arrived needing emergency treatment. The 148 people they treated ranged from babies and young children to pensioners. Two young children had leg amputations. One 10-year-old victim lost a foot.

When asked whether that victim was a boy or a girl, Dr Russell's fatigue became apparent. He paused for a while before replying: "I can't remember."

Most of the injuries were caused by shrapnel and flying

ULSTER'S WORST ATROCITIES

July 21 1972

Bloody Friday: 11 killed when IRA sets off 26 Belfast bombs.

October-November 1974

Mainland pub bombings kill 28. Loyalists kill 22 in Dublin.

February 17 1978

Twelve Protestants die in IRA firebomb at Ulster hotel.

August 27 1979

Warrenpoint: IRA bomb kills 18 soldiers.

October 1984

Brighton: Five die when IRA bombs Tory conference hotel.

November 1987

Enniskillen: 11 die in IRA Remembrance Day bombing.

February 1996

Docklands: IRA blows up South Quay station. Two die.

July 1998

Three children burn to death during Drumcree stand-off.

Spaniards who had been visiting Omagh on a student exchange programme. Two Spaniards were among the dead.

Gerry Carson, hospital spokesman, said: "We put our emergency plan into operation. There were helicopters landing in the car park until late into the evening."

Back in Omagh, the local leisure centre was used as a casualty field hospital. Dozens of relatives waited outside as lists of those being treated inside were pinned to a noticeboard. When names were recognised, there was relief mixed with apprehension over how serious the injuries would turn out to be.

Priests, social workers, police, medical staff and local politicians offered assistance to those whose loved ones had died. Families who had been given bad news were often driven off by taxis whose drivers made their vehicles available to anyone needing transport to homes or hospitals.

Lindsay Hall found out that his wife, Gwen, and son Alastair, 12, had been caught in the blast. They were alive, but Alastair had lost one of his legs. Bewildered, he asked: "How could they do this to innocent, ordinary people on a Saturday afternoon? Alastair loved playing rugby but he will never be able to again now. He was out with his mum buying some trousers

for going back to school when the warning came. They came out of the shop and tried to get back to the car. If they'd stayed in the shop they would both have been killed. He's only 12. I'm 57, why couldn't it have happened to me?"

For others, moments of panic turned into relief as relatives were found safe and well. Darryl Simpson was separated from members of his family while panic mounted over their fate. "I ended up checking bodies trying to see if they were my ones," he said.

"It seems selfish talking about it now but it was all I could think about at the time. It was an anxious two-hour wait before we could establish where they were. All of our family all nine of us, stayed together in the one bedroom last night."

The town woke up yesterday to grey skies and drizzle and a sense of disbelief. People gathered at the scene and shook their heads, appalled at the devastation, morbidly fascinated by the crater in the road and the barely recognisable remains of the maroon Vauxhall Astra that bore the bomb.

The pavement was covered in dried blood. Among the wreckage were nappies, a mangled pram and a pair of children's shoes.

Congregations for morning services were swelled by a need to share grief. More than 800 people squeezed into St Joseph's Hall next to the Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart to be told that one of the victims was from their ranks. Geraldine Breslin, a young married woman, died from her wounds early yesterday.

Some sat weeping, others stared vacantly as Father Michael Keaveny said the atrocity had nothing to do with religion. "From the point of view of the people who suffered there was no distinction. Catholic and Protestant, young and old, there was no question of wanting to get one side rather than another," he said.

"The whole thing sounds so terrible, so stupid, so foolish, so senseless."

One parishioner, Patrick Darcy, said: "I feel diminished as an Irishman that other Irishmen could come to this town and scatter the blood of Irish men, women and children over these streets."

All day, politicians came and went, genuinely distressed by what they saw. Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, John Prescott, his deputy, Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, and the Irish President, Mary McAleese, offered words of comfort, but there was nothing they could say to ease the pain.

Father Kevin Mullin, of the Church of Christ the King in Omagh, said he had worked through the night to counsel families and friends of the dead and injured. He gave the last rites to two people before they died. "I couldn't get over the number of dead. It was just awful," he said.

One man he comforted had lost three members of his family - his mother, sister and niece. "You just offer a shoulder to cry on and give them space to talk," he said. "You let them know they are not alone. You just cry with them."

He said families were being counselled when they came in to the Omagh Leisure Centre to try and establish details of missing friends and relatives. Those who it seemed had lost relatives were taken to a nearby army base where a makeshift morgue had been established.

One man whose brother had been blown apart told him: "Whatever is left I need to see it before he is buried. I need to see whatever is left, even just the bones. I need to say goodbye to whatever is there."

The missing young mother was my cousin

I WAS standing in the knot of journalists, waiting to hear deputy Prime Minister John Prescott's words of comfort, or condemnation, when I heard my name called.

It was Terry, a man I played with as a child. Terry didn't realise I was in Omagh in a working capacity. I felt strangely embarrassed as I explained that I was reporting. It was almost as though I was a voyeur in my home town.

John Atkins, who had been shopping with his wife Ellen said: "For the first time I realised there was a smell to

again later, as I interviewed bereaved relatives and anxious neighbours in the makeshift information centre.

A man was speaking of his friend and neighbour, Libby Rush, who was on the missing list - people didn't know if she was alive or dead. My pen halted in its headlong rush: did she have a boutique in the town called Libby's? I asked. He nodded. I went to school with her daughter. As a teenager I used to admire her impeccable dress sense.

This feeling of occupying a parallel universe emerged

Martina Devlin, born and brought up in Omagh, returned there as a reporter

It got worse. Someone else mentioned the name of a young mother who had gone missing and I asked for her name to be repeated. It was my cousin. I rang home during a brief respite and learned to my relief that she was in hospital in Derry with an arm injury.

That's the scale of the

carnage here in Omagh - you hear of people with serious injuries and you thank God for their lucky escape. Distressing information kept interrupting me as I did my job, reporting on the explosion for the Dublin-based Irish Independent. It was difficult to ignore: school-friends, neighbours and relatives

all affected by death and destruction on this scale in a town of just 25,000 people.

One of the women killed is the sister-in-law of my first boyfriend and a picture of her flashes into my mind. She's a mother, with a smile that lit up her face. I think of her family and I grieve for them, even as I scribble her name in my notebook.

My brother's sister-in-law had 12 stitches to her head, another sister-in-law had a dead 17-year-old cousin, even

My 10-year-old nieces saw dismembered bodies and babies with their hair scorched off. These scenes are nightmare material for adults, never mind little girls.

I stood in the leisure centre waiting for the arrival of Ireland's President, Mary McAleese, surrounded by the familiar faces of childhood - but they were faces whacked with grief and misery.

Omagh has become the town with the single highest death toll in the history of the Troubles.

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Omagh has become the town with the single highest death toll in the history of the Troubles.

Blast killed 14 women and nine children

By KIM SENGUPTA
in Omagh

OMAGH WILL be remembered as the bomb that massacred women and children, it became clear yesterday as the identities of the casualties emerged.

Fourteen women, five men and nine children met their deaths. They included three generations of one family: a woman heavily pregnant with twins, her mother and her 18-month-old baby.

The dead boys included three from the seaside town of Buncrana, over the border in Co Donegal in the Irish Republic, whose families had been playing host to a group of Spanish exchange schoolchildren; hosts and guests were on a visit to the Omagh carnival.

Two of the Buncrana boys were neighbours: Sean McLaughlin, 12, and Orian Doherty, eight. The third was boy was James Barker, 12, son of a solicitor whose family moved to Buncrana from England about a year ago. A 12-year-old Spanish boy, Fernando Blasco, and one of his teachers, Rosia Abad, aged 24, both from Madrid, also met their deaths.

Four dead boys and three dead girls had been formally identified by yesterday evening; two other children were awaiting identification.

In all the carnage, the Grimes family bore the heaviest single toll. Avril Monaghan, 30, her 18-month-old daughter Maura, and her mother, Mary Grimes, 65, were on a shopping trip to Omagh when the bomb exploded and killed them all.

Mrs Monaghan, from the small village of Aughadarna, a few miles outside the town, was survived by her husband, Michael, and two daughters and a son, the oldest of whom is six. Mrs Grimes, a mother of 12, was from Beragh where her husband, Mick, is a farmer.

The Catholic Primate of All Ireland, Archbishop Sean Brady, who visited the families yesterday, said they were too distressed to speak publicly of



Injured casualties (above and below) are airlifted from Tyrone County Hospital to the Belfast Royal Hospital on Saturday after the car bomb exploded in the centre of Omagh, Co Tyrone



their loss. Mr Grimes's brother James is a priest in Whitecross, his archdiocese, the archbishop said, adding: "The family are just totally devastated. They are just so shocked."

Behind every death lies a devastated family. The Logue family's walk home in the rain, with a quiet dignity in their sorrow, was repeated many many times in Omagh yesterday. From the leisure centre, which has been turned into a place of information and counselling for the bereaved, to Tyrone County

Hospital to the morgue they walked, sometimes weeping, sometimes in silence holding each other's hands.

The Logue family are republican and vote Sinn Féin. Brenda, 17, was a promising athlete and Gaelic football goalkeeper. On Saturday she was out shopping with her mother, Mary, and grandmother, Philomena. She went into Kells, a clothing store, when the bomb went off. Her mother and grandmother survived, but Brenda was killed.



Mother and son comfort each other at Mass yesterday in Omagh after Ulster's worst atrocity in 30 years AP

"So many injured I did not know where to start"



Pinto: "Let me not see this sort of thing again"

By JANE HUGHES

DOMINIC PINTO, senior consultant surgeon at Tyrone County Hospital, described yesterday how he was greeted by "scenes from a battlefield" when he arrived to tend the injured: "There were so many people injured one didn't know where to start. I am still trying to fathom out what makes people do this. I am saddened and lost for words."

Mr Pinto, who has worked at the hospital for 18 years, issued a plea to the terrorists to stop the violence.

He said: "It saddens me to think that people perpetrate such atrocity. I want to appeal to these people and say what have they gained by doing this? It is their own people that they are injuring and maiming."

"I appeal to them. Let me not see this sort of thing again. It's dastardly."

Mr Pinto, like most of the medical staff, worked through the night to deal with the crisis. He said many hospital workers had relatives and friends among the casualties. He added: "One or two of my staff had their own children involved. Unfortunately one case was quite a severe incident."

Hospital staff were assisted at the peak of the crisis by medical workers from across Northern Ireland. A spokesman said that at one time there were 14 anaesthetists on site, although he had no accurate figures for the total number of medical, nursing and support staff drafted in.

Paramedics, GPs, volunteers, health workers and members of the clergy also did what they could to help. The spokesman said: "It was a marvellous response and one which we are extremely thankful for."

Who speaks for the Real IRA?

By DAVID MCKITTRICK and
MICHAEL MCCARTHY

SECURITY SOURCES have been warning for several months that the Real IRA, the group of hardline IRA dissidents which is the chief suspect in the Omagh bombing, was becoming a very serious threat.

It is much more menacing than the two earlier rebel groupings, the Continuity IRA and the Irish National Liberation Army, which have been intermittently attempting to sabotage the peace process since it began with the first IRA ceasefire in 1994.

Both the latter were regarded as a containable fringe of extremists, but in recent months the Real IRA has mounted a substantial terrorist campaign - and has now been joined by the two smaller groups.

It was set up last October by the IRA's former Quartermaster-General, a man from Co Louth in the Irish Republic, who resigned in disgust after the second IRA ceasefire and took with him much of the IRA's bomb-making expertise and access to timing devices, detonators and substantial quantities of explosives. He has now been joined by perhaps 100 IRA activists who feel that the Good Friday peace agreement is a sell-out because it does not lead directly to a united Ireland.

The group is believed to have been responsible for a series of recent attacks, culminating in a 500lb car bomb which devastated the market town of Banbridge in Co Down.

Earlier in the month, a Real IRA bombing campaign in London is believed to have been foiled with a series of arrests, and several Real IRA car bombs destined for England or



Bernadette Sands-McKevitt (left), a republican extremist who last year founded the 32-County Sovereignty Movement and (right) her partner, Michael McKevitt



Northern Ireland are understood to have been intercepted by the Irish police so far this year.

In May, following a mortar attack on a police station in Co Fermanagh, the group declared that it had appointed an "army executive" and that a "war machine is once again being directed at the British Cabinet".

Two names were yesterday on the lips of everyone in Ireland discussing the republican dissident groups: Bernadette Sands and Michael McKevitt.

Ms Sands, sister of Bobby Sands, the IRA hunger striker who died in the Maze Prison in 1981, is an undisciplined republican extremist who last year founded the 32-County Sovereignty Movement, regarded by the security forces on both sides of the border as the Real IRA's political face.

Michael McKevitt, a well-known republican shopkeeper from Dundalk, who was shot in both legs in 1975 in a feud with the Official IRA, is her partner.

According to Ms Sands, McKevitt, as she styles herself, she is purely and simply a

spokesperson for a movement which she says has no associations with terrorism and is not even a political party, but rather a pressure group for Irish independence.

Ronnie Flanagan, Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, said some months ago that he believed the head of the Real IRA was aligned to the Sovereignty Movement, or Sovereignty Committee as it was then called.

He added: "People very close to that committee have a military capability, have an expertise and knowledge that we would assess has been deployed in recent attacks. There is a knowledge and expertise there that could be brought to bear in terrorist attacks."

Sinn Féin's national chairman Mitchell McLaughlin said last night that police on both sides of the border knew who were responsible. "We are talking here about a relatively small number of people who in all probability are guilty of what happened yesterday," he said.

He told BBC Radio Ulster: "The unfortunate reality is that

there are those, possibly very young and inexperienced and idealistic people who are being affected by the rhetoric of these people who we don't know, who no one knows."

Earlier this year, Ms Sands-McKevitt conducted a newspaper interview in mourning clothes, having just attended the funeral of a Real IRA member who had been shot dead by Gardaí during an armed robbery in Co Wicklow.

She commands instant attention in Ireland as the sister of Bobby Sands. The hunger-striker, who was elected to Westminster while in the Maze prison, remains one of the republican movement's most potent icons and martyrs and a large portrait of him, regularly re-painted, is the most prominent republican mural on the Falls Road in Belfast.

His sister's argument is essentially that he did not die, after a 66-day hunger strike, for the sort of agreement which Sinn Féin has just accepted: "I can't see what they are doing as being compatible with what Bobby died for," she said.

A mother of three children, she moved out of Belfast 20 years ago to Dundalk, where she runs a small business, and was largely unknown to the public until last year, when she stepped out from a background role to give regular media interviews.

In these she often forecasts that republican violence will continue, though her predictions are generally cast not in the form of threats but as statements of the inevitable.

She and her movement are implacable opponents of the peace process and the Good Friday agreement. She told one interviewer: "The whole thing is just a re-structuring of British rule in Ireland."

She told another: "Peace is not what our people fought for. They fought for independence." Criticising Sinn Féin leaders Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness, she declared: "False hope was generated by some people. The message sent out was that there was light at the end of the tunnel for republicans and, if we held hands, we would come through."

"But that wasn't true. I am firmly convinced we are being conned. I believe the talks are a farce. There are those prepared to compromise and that is totally wrong, totally wrong."

Fractured history of republicanism

THE REAL IRA, which thinks that by acts like the Omagh bombing it can drive the British into the sea, is only the latest in a long line of hardline defectors from mainstream Irish Republicanism.

At the birth of self-governing Ireland in 1922, the Republican Movement split down the middle over the terms of the peace deal with Britain. Purists committed to a Republic of all Ireland waged an inter-ethnic conflict with the moderates led by Michael Collins, the charismatic leader who had signed the peace treaty.

Collins said he had also signed his own death warrant and so it proved: he was shot dead in an ambush. But the moderates eventually prevailed, using far more ruthless methods than the British to smash hardline Republicans: 11,000 were interned and 77 executed in reprisals.

Another split occurred in 1926 when realists, who believed that the Irish Republic could be achieved by anti-imperialist politics rather than militarism, broke away from

By TOM GALLAGHER

extreme Republicanism to form the Fianna Fáil Party.

Its chief Eamon de Valera, swept to power in 1932, did not hesitate to deal ruthlessly with Republican extremists, jailing and hanging them, and allowing others to die in futile hunger strikes.

For over 40 years a shrinking band of diehards kept alive the fantasy of Sinn Féin and the IRA as the legitimate power Ireland, but after the ignominious collapse of a military campaign against the Unionist state in the 1950s, a surprising re-think took place.

The by now tiny Republican Movement was steered by Moscow-leaning leftists towards social radicalism and away from nationalism.

Then the movement split again in the early 70s, between the Marxists, now the Official IRA, that eventually agreed a ceasefire with the British in 1972, and the Provisionals who still wanted to bomb the British out. But, by the end of the 1970s the armed

struggle had reached an impasse. A Northern Republican group, led by Gerry Adams and Danny Morrison, decided to revive a moribund Sinn Féin and promote non-violent nationalism politically. When the 1981 Republican hunger strikes mobilised unprecedented popular support, they adopted a dual political and military strategy.

The morbid fear of politics subsided, and by the early 1980s many military men were convinced a long war was unwinnable. The successful Adams-McGuinness partnership meant much backed the leadership's decision to negotiate with the British and the Unionists for powersharing and amnesty for prisoners.

If Sinn Féin names the hardmen, it is unlikely to lead to a split. The bombers in their madness killed Sinn Féin supporters in Omagh, and all Catholics could face Loyalist paramilitary reprisals.

Tom Gallagher is professor of ethnic conflict at Bradford University

ON SATURDAY IT WAS THEM.

Draw date: 16/8/98. The winning numbers: 3, 5, 15, 22, 31, 35. Bonus number: 47.
Total Sales: £55,085,737. Prize Fund: £24,786,581 (45% of ticket sales)

CATEGORY	NO. OF WINNERS	AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIER
Match 5 (Jackpot)	5	£881,786	£4,408,930
Match 5 plus bonus ball	29	£55,055	£1,596,495
Match 5	1,457	£931	£1,358,467
Match 4	68,595	£43	£2,949,695
Match 3	1,122,264	£10	£11,222,640
TOTALS	1,192,363		£24,786,581

Total Sales including Instant and Wednesday Draw: £56,973,265.
Total week's contribution to Good Causes: £25,500,000.
Breakdown (prize rounded down to nearest £1): £12,050,000
© Camelot Group plc. Prizes must be 16 or over.

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

In the event of any discrepancy in the above, the data contained in Camelot's central computer system shall prevail.

JP 11/150

Mandelson the 'brains' behind Labour

CLEVER CLOGS, Vulcans and those with "pointy heads" will never have much political credibility. But Peter Mandelson, well, he is in a class of his own.

This is the ruling of a jury of 12 Mensa members who have created a new PQ rating - or Political Quotient, a cross between an IQ level and assessment of political acumen - to rank each member of the current cabinet.

Billed by the elite club's panel as "the brains behind New Labour", it is Peter Mandelson who finishes well ahead of his parliamentary rivals. He scores an impressive 90 points out of a possible 100 PQ.

The Trade Secretary may "not be universally liked" by his colleagues in the Labour Party, but he is considered an astute operator, without being seen as a "pointy head" (the term said to be used by Gordon Brown's spin doctor Charlie Whelan to disparage intellectuals).

Mr Mandelson is closely followed by Stephen Byers, the

BY VANESSA THORPE

Chief Secretary to the Treasury, on 85 points, and Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, on 75.

Others are not so highly valued. Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Development, was downgraded for having "a mouth that is bigger than her brain". She earned only 30 PQ points and came joint bottom of the league with Nick Brown, the new Minister of Agriculture. Jack Cunningham, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, only just managed to beat them with scores of 35.

The PQ league table, published today in the new edition of *Mensa Magazine*, was drawn up during secret deliberations by an anonymous jury of specially selected Mensans, each of whom has an IQ of over 148.

The 12 panelists included several captains of industry and leading civil servants,

HOW MENSA RATES THE POLITICIANS



Jack Straw

Political ability: 8
Intellectual ability: 7
PQ: 75

Mensa says: Likeable man of genuine conviction; his common sense and decency come across.



Jack Cunningham

Political ability: 2
Intellectual ability: 5
PQ: 35

Mensa says: Responsible for banning beef on the bone. Now known as "The Enforcer".



Clare Short

Political ability: 2
Intellectual ability: 4
PQ: 30

Mensa says: Mouth is bigger than her brain; lacks political finesse.



Peter Mandelson

Political ability: 10
Intellectual ability: 8
PQ: 90

Mensa says: The brains behind New Labour but not universally liked!

Mensa says, and they set out to assess each cabinet member purely on political performance, rather than on their basic level of intelligence.

"Our jury took the view that some of the cabinet were too clever by half," explained Simon Clark, *Mensa Magazine's* editor.

"It was not as scientific as an IQ allocation, but we asked each member to rate the politician on ability and then on intellectual ability, before coming

up with the final PQ figure." Mensa acknowledges that, while an individual's IQ rating will remain static throughout their life, there is some scope

for improving a PQ score. "Robin Cook did not do that well this time, but he may have learnt a lot over the last year. It is possible that next year he will score more than 35."

The chairman of Mensa, Noel Burger, said he believed his panel had been correct to assume that a powerful intellect was not the same thing as a good political brain.

"The more rounded a politician is, the more likely they are to be successful," he said. "It also is not really all that important to be liked, and here we could look at the examples of both Peter Mandelson and Margaret Thatcher."

The new edition of the magazine also carries an article by Peter Mandelson's former aide, Derek Draper, who argues that sheer intellect or "pointy-headedness", will rarely be enough to secure political advancement.

"In Britain the ambitious politico settles for a newspaper picture of himself drinking local

ale in the nearest salon bar," he writes.

In contrast, politicians with less savoir-faire, such as Robin Cook, the Lord Chancellor Derry Irvine, and even William Hague, are regarded with suspicion.

He suggests that the ability to dumb down, or at least not to appear too clever, is the key to smart politicking. "Welcome Jack 'The Enforcer' Cunningham, a man who learnt his trade among the shop stewards of Newcastle GMB, Peter Mandelson, a strategist with a keen intelligence, but not an intellectual, and John Prescott."

The fact that Mr Draper was recently caught out boasting about his influence over New Labour does not seem to inhibit him from offering advice.

"Ultimately it is instinct, common sense and, above all, luck which services the successful politician more usefully than any degree of grey matter," he concludes.

Tall toddlers 'more likely to grow into teen bullies'

TALL YOUNGSTERS who crave stimulation stand a greater than average chance of turning into classroom bullies and possibly even violent criminals, a controversial new study suggests.

Researchers found three-year-olds, whether boys or girls, just half an inch taller than their peers tended to be unusually aggressive by the age of 11. The same was true of toddlers who were more fearless and stimulation-seeking than other children.

Earlier research has shown that the most aggressive children aged 11 have an increased chance of growing up to be violent criminals.

Dr Adrian Raine, of the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, who led the study, said: "There appears to be a critical period in development, some time after age three but before age 11, when a child learns to use his physical advantage to aggressive ends."

"Parents of tall toddlers - especially those who are very stimulation-seeking and fearless - need to take extra care to drive home the message that there are a lot better ways than physical force to get what you want in life."

Dr Raine, a clinical neuroscientist, measured the height and weight of 1,130 male and female three-year-olds in Mauritius, a racially mixed country with a low emigration rate.

The toddlers were scored for

BY JOHN VON RADOWITZ

stimulation-seeking behaviour - such as their willingness to explore toys away from their mother - and fearlessness.

When the children reached 11 their mothers were questioned about the degree to which their sons or daughters fought, swore, threatened or displayed "cruel" tendencies to establish an aggression scale.

It was found that children ranked near the top of the scale were generally half an inch taller than average when they were three years old.

Similarly the most aggressive 11-year-olds were particularly stimulation seeking and fearless at the age of three. But weight was not as strong a predictor of aggressiveness as height.

The findings were published in this month's issue of the journal *Archives of General Psychiatry*. Dr Raine thought both physical and psychological factors may account for the trend.

But the link between toddler height, or desire for stimulation, and later aggressive behaviour could not be explained by differences in family income, parents' education, or any other aspect of a child's socio-economic background. The association applied equally among Mauritian Indians and Creoles.

However, Dr Raine warned against using the trend to predict whether a particular child would grow up to be a criminal.



The Lowndes Arms, a favourite and discreet watering hole for the rich and famous, is likely to be turned into a private residence

Neville Elder

Sir Alec backs campaign to preserve the celebrities' pub from £4m sale



Guinness: popular haunt

SIR ALEC GUINNESS drank there because the darts players were "safe". David Niven used to pop in for his pre-prandial because there were no autograph hunters.

Tucked away in Chesham Street, in London's Belgravia, the Lowndes Arms has always been a favourite - and discreet - watering hole for the rich and famous.

Those who have propped up its bar include Robert Wagner and Natalie Wood, Tom Baker, Pierce Brosnan, Blair (Lionel not Tony), Helen Shapiro, Susanah York and Michael Crawford. It achieved celluloid fame itself in the film *The Crying Game*.

But property speculators

BY GARY FINN

have other ideas. This casual stop-off for the parched celebrity, open for 250 years, is to be sold - as a house.

With a potential £4m price tag, the owner, Intreprenuer Pub Company, has decided it can make more money from one straight sale than in the fickle trade in ploughman's and pints - a decision condemned by its clientele.

Sir Alec Guinness told *The Independent*: "I am very sorry to hear that the pub might be closed. I think it is the nicest pub in that part of London."

Completed in 1762 by the co-founder of the Bank of England, Sir William Lowndes, for the

bricks that built Belgravia, it has served the area unbroken ever since.

Now Sir William's surviving relatives have lined up with former landlords, the pub's current managers and more than 1,000 pub-goers, to save the bar.

Campaigners point to a covenant drawn up by Sir William that prohibits any use other than as a shop or a licensed victuallers. They accuse the current owners of rushing through planning permission without consultation and of ignoring Sir William's wishes.

One of Sir William's descendants, Simon Lowndes, said they may form a limited company as a campaign group to

fight the closure. "What they are doing not only goes against the memory of this great man who did so much for this country but also against the sanctity of the law by seeking to breach this covenant."

"Belgravia is, at the best of times, a very quiet, anonymous place. It's prized for its privacy but Lowndes Arms is a haven for those seeking community."

"If Sir William were alive today he would be terribly disappointed at the thought of a pub that he bequeathed free to the community being metamorphosed into a crude money-making device."

Threats of court action, petitions and protests have cut no

ice with the owners, however. David Simpson, spokesman for Intreprenuer, said: "It is a small pub and not commercially successful. As for this covenant, that has only recently emerged two or three weeks ago. We don't think it has any validity and legal advisers are looking at it but at this stage we are unconvinced it has any legal status."

For Keith Matthews, who makes the 200-yard daily stroll from his home for his pint, it will be the end of a 33-year habit.

He said: "Asking if the pub was open was as foolish as speculating as to whether the sun would rise tomorrow. But now it won't - it makes me very sad."

Mink freed in repeat attack

WHO WOULD want to be a mink? By the end of their first week on the run, many had returned to the farm from which they were released by animal liberationists and piteously begged to be let back in.

They evidently didn't reckon on the persistent nature of the truly committed animal activist. Yesterday, whether they liked it or not, the mink were liberated again.

A member of staff arriving at Crow Hill Farm in Ringwood, Hampshire, found a new section of the perimeter fence cut yesterday morning and 40 cages open. It is thought about 500 mink made off into the surrounding countryside.

For many this will be their second taste of freedom but life on the outside has not been easy. Of the 4,000 that initially escaped, it is estimated that around 2,000 are still at large, 1,000 have returned - either voluntarily or after being caught - and the rest have met their maker. The majority have been shot, but several have been beaten by shovels, watering cans and hockey sticks as a desperate public fight to protect its pets and livestock from the vicious predators.

So far, no one has claimed responsibility for the second raid, but the Animal Liberation

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

Front said it was behind the first. A spokesman for Hampshire Police said: "Whoever committed this crime is extremely foolhardy in the light of previous advice in respect of the damage to wildlife and local ecology." A spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture said its staff, who were in the area trying to trap the mink released in the first raid, now faced having to capture many of the same animals a second time.

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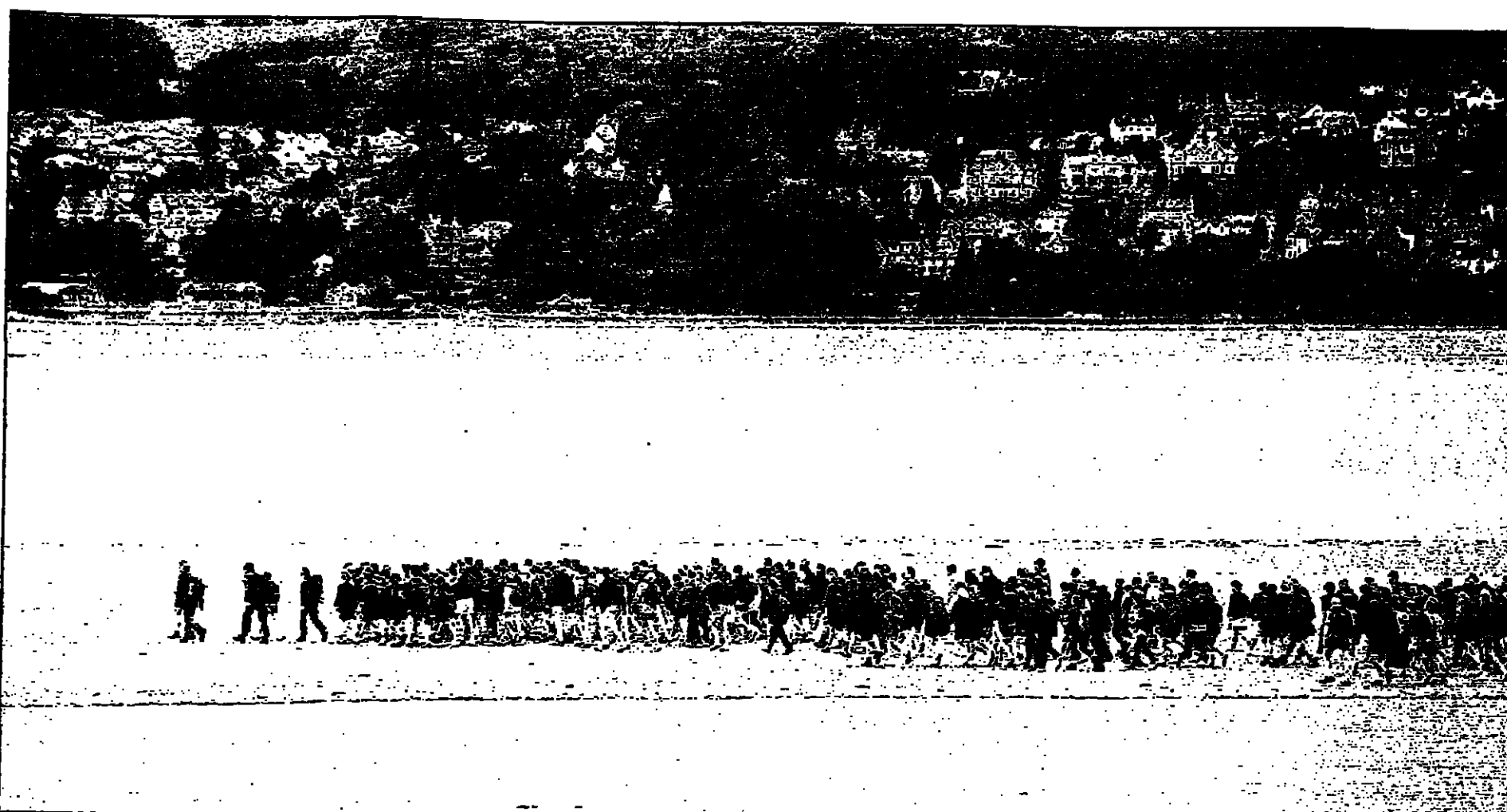
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Supporters of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds joining the annual sponsored walk yesterday across Morecambe Bay, famed for its wildlife. *Martin Rickett*

Scientists worried by modified food risks

LEADING BRITISH scientists are concerned about the risk to the environment of genetically modified (GM) crops and foods – although most would still eat the products – a survey by *The Independent* has found.

Some fear that genes inserted into crops to confer new traits could escape into the wild, or even affect human health in unpredictable ways. They suspect that the long-term experiments necessary to assess the risks have not been carried out.

"I see worries in the fact that we have the power to manipulate genes in ways that would be improbable or impossible through conventional evolution," said Colin Blakemore, Wynter professor of physiology at Oxford University and president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. "We shouldn't be complacent in thinking that we can predict the results."

Gordon McVie, head of the Cancer Research Campaign, is also concerned. "We don't know what... genetic abnormalities might be incorporated into the genome [the individual's DNA]. I'm more worried about humans than about the environment, to be honest. One of the problems is that because it's a long-term thing, you need to do long-term experiments."

David Bellamy, the botanist, condemned the commercial motives behind the "gene revolution". It would "disenfranchise poor people from their genetic inheritance and their lands", and he warned: "Super-crops and superweeds know no boundaries."

The Independent spoke to a broad range of scientists from a variety of disciplines, including biology, physics and astronomy, to ask them if they eat GM foods, if they have any concerns about GM foods and crops, and if they think the public is being well-informed.

The inquiries followed a letter published in *The Independent* on Friday from Richard Dawkins, the Oxford evolutionary scientist, who condemned "ignorant hysteria over scientific matters" that led many people to question the safety of transgenic products.

But *The Independent's* survey reveals that prominent sci-

BY CHARLES ARTHUR AND STEVE CONNOR

entists are not convinced that biotechnology firms are completely in control of their products. "I have concerns about the long-term environmental effects of these crops," said Susan Greenfield, a leading brain researcher at Oxford University. The Astronomer Royal, Sir Martin Rees, said: "Although I would eat them, I think one should have some concerns."

Tom Kirkwood, professor of biological gerontology at Manchester University, would eat genetically modified food, but with reservations. "I don't think GM food would be toxic, but I do have concerns about gene transfer... to other plants. I think the risks are not being properly assessed," he said.

John Sumpter, professor of biology at Brunel University and an expert on chemicals in the environment that mimic female hormones, is also concerned about the risks to wildlife. "Eating GM food probably would not worry me a great deal. My concerns are about what would happen when GM crops escape from fields – which they will do."

Richard Horton, editor of *The Lancet*, said: "I think these should proper safety testing, like a drug, on animals, and then on humans."

Steve Jones, professor of genetics at University College London, said: "Nothing in life is ever safe, but compared to other things we have to worry about – bacteria and BSE, say – the risks are tiny."

The most assured response came from Dr Keith McCullagh, chief executive of British Biotech, the pharmaceuticals company. "The way in which they (GM foods) have been modified doesn't introduce any new hazard to human health."

● The Women's Nutritional Advisory Service, which is opposed to GM food, has named 20 suppliers and retailers that actively use GM products – including Sainsbury's, Safeway, Somerfield, Tesco, Asda, Budgens, Kwik Save and Spar. It also lists 47 firms that avoid genetically modified soya – the most widely used GM food – including Waitrose and Iceland. Watchdog sought, page 13



Concerned: Colin Blakemore and David Bellamy

Non-stick ketchup runs out of the lab

A SCANNING technique for head injury patients is helping to develop the perfect ketchup.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is used for body scanning, particularly to monitor brain activity. But for the first time, industrial scientists are adapting it to develop a tomato ketchup that can pour without sticking.

For most people, watching food travel around someone else's mouth is considered bad manners. But scientists are using MRI to scan the brains and mouths of people while eating, to detect exactly how the food breaks up in the mouth and pinpoint its texture.

"This is the first time in the world MRI has been used in this way. We have adapted the technology to look at food and fluids," said Professor Laurie Hall, who leads the team at the Herchel Smith Laboratory for Medical Chemistry in Cambridge.

The way MRI works is to map the distribution of water molecules and the other sub-

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

stances around it. What the scientists are doing, both in examining the mouth and also in separate experiments pushing food through a pipe, is to map the distribution in margarine and then re-create the pattern by using fat substitutes such as polysaccharides. By re-creating the same pattern it ensures the texture or "mouth feel" of the food is the same.

The technique is also helping create a low-fat margarine that tastes like butter, which should be fully developed and on the shelves within two years.

"What we're doing is helping to create more healthy foods so that people can have a more healthy diet," said Professor Hall, who is doing the work with industrial giant Unilever.

In a similar – but slightly less health-conscious – experiment the scientists measure how much force it takes to propel ketchup down a pipe.

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JP 11/10/98

Red fire engines turning white

LIKE THE telephone box and the bobby's helmet, the red fire engine has become a national icon. But just as British Telecom has switched to new clear booths and police forces are experimenting with flat caps, so fire services are now painting their engines white.

The switch is based on research showing that the traditional red appliance turns black under bright lighting and is harder to spot in traffic than vehicles of other colours. It is hoped that the change will reduce the number of accidents involving fire engines and improve their response times.

One fire service has already switched to white and at least four others are preparing to follow. A report on white engines is being sent to the Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers' Association.

"If these white fire appliances prove successful it is possible that other brigades will follow suit, resulting in the familiar red fire engines vanishing from Britain's streets," said Simon Hoffman, editor of Fire magazine.

In Grampian Fire Service in

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

Scotland, the public has responded favourably to the introduction of eight white engines earlier this summer.

Gordon Kennedy, the deputy firemaster, said: "Hopefully we will now be more conspicuous. This brings us into line with the other emergency services."

He said other fire services would be switching to white in coming months. Two Scottish and several English services have been to see the Grampian vehicles with a view to changing their own fleets.

Mr Kennedy said that the region had a reputation for trend-setting within the fire service. Its decision to change fire uniforms from navy blue to mustard - so that chemical spills would be visible - has now been copied by many English fire chiefs.

The red fire engine has been ingrained in the British consciousness through images ranging from the toy town brigade in the BBC children's programme *Trumpton* to the televised drama series



The country's first white fire engine was introduced by the Grampian fire brigade, which believes the new colour is much more conspicuous than red. Derek Ironside

London's Burning. The prospect of it changing colour is likely to dismay fans. But the evidence in favour of dropping tradition in favour of practicality seems compelling.

Studies carried out by the Institute of Optometrists and the Transport Research Laboratory at Crowthorne in Berkshire have shown that white

and yellow are the most visible colours and that red and grey are the hardest to make out.

Similarly, research carried out for the Department of Postal Services in the United States found that 90 per cent of sensory information reaching the brain was of visual origin and that lighter colours were easier to pick up. It concluded

that green was the most difficult colour to see. In Germany, drivers of red vehicles have even been advised to put on their headlights sooner than other motorists when light begins to fade.

One of the first people to become aware of the danger of red fire engines in Britain was Albert Leese, who was the chief

fire officer in Coventry between 1960 and 1974. Mr Leese had noticed how invisible the appliances became under bright lighting and asked scientists from Coventry's Lanchester College to investigate.

Working with Dulux, the paint company, they concluded that the colour of optimum visibility was somewhere on the

spectrum between lime green and yellow. Accordingly, Mr Leese ordered that the city of Coventry's fire engines were painted this colour. "It's not a pleasant colour," he admitted. "It's a colour that when you look at it, it gives you a bit of a shock."

But the colour change improved response times and cut the number of accidents in-

volving fire appliances. Mr Leese wrote to the Home Office Fire Department, recommending that the colour change be taken up nationally.

"They wrote back and said, 'Fire engines have always been red', which was a very scientific answer," he said, adding that the engines had been painted red again after he stood down.

Non-smokers clear the air with call for pay cut

OFFICES AND factories have become hotbeds of smouldering discontent because non-smokers think their smoking colleagues are slackers, according to a new survey.

Smokers, already ostracised for their anti-social habit, could also be hit in the pocket if their tobacco-free colleagues have

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

their way. More than one in three believes the pay of smokers should be docked to compensate for the time they spend on cigarette breaks, the polling organisation Gallup has found. Even among smokers, 27

per cent voted for their own pay to be cut.

Gallup, which conducted the survey of 2,000 workers for Nicorette, makers of nicotine chewing gum, admitted the finding was unexpected.

The survey showed half of non-smokers believe smokers do less at work, compared with

15 per cent of the smokers who were prepared to admit to being slackers.

Gay Sutherland, clinical psychologist at the National Addiction Centre, London, said: "Clearly there are bad feelings between smokers and non-smokers with non-smokers feeling the smokers are not

pulling their weight. It may be true that people are smoking rather than getting on with their work but the best way to help them is to get them to quit. That benefits everybody."

The survey showed 72 per cent of people thought employers would do better to help people stop smoking rather

than provide smoking rooms or force them to go outside. However, nine out of 10 backed bans on smoking in the workplace, including eight out of 10 smokers.

Fifty-eight per cent believed loitering smokers and decaying butts gave their workplace a bad image. There were 72 per

cent who said employers should help smokers to kick the habit by providing counselling and education.

But FOREST, which promotes equal rights for smokers, believed they should be accommodated in the workplace. "The findings are out of step with current management

thinking on smoking policies and the accusation that smokers take more breaks is unsubstantiated," said spokesman Martin Ball.

He recommended companies installed smoking rooms with telephones and work stations to allow employees to puff and work simultaneously.

Rail sub-contractors are 'cutting corners' on safety

RAIL PASSENGERS could be at risk from engineering sub-contractors 'cutting corners' to finish projects on time, it was disclosed yesterday.

The fear was expressed after a survey of health and safety professionals in the rail industry.

The survey also found that more than one in four of these health and safety professionals felt there was less commitment to health and safety in the rail industry than there was five years ago.

"These findings cause us

BY PETER WOODMAN

considerable concern," said Stephen Fulwell, head of technical affairs at the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health, which conducted the survey.

The institution also discovered that almost one-third of rail health and safety professionals considered their status to be lower than it was five years ago.

"We have found that sharper commercial focus in the privatised rail sector, combined

with an increase in the outsourcing of engineering projects, may be encouraging some sub-contractors to 'cut corners' under the pressure of delivering to tight deadlines and budgets," the institution said.

Mr Fulwell said that his organisation, which represents 23,000 health and safety professionals, was also concerned that certain proposed safety measures for the industry, such as the withdrawal of old Mark 1 trains, which have limited crash-survivability, were first

put forward 10 years ago. "We want to make sure, given the feedback from our members and the upward trend in rail accidents, that rail companies and the franchising directorate are putting health and safety high enough up the corporate agenda," said Mr Fulwell.

Last week, the Health and Safety Executive disclosed that, excluding suicides and trespassers, 47 people died on the railways in 1997-98 - nearly double the figure of the previous year.

Do you speak trainspotting?

BY GARY FINN

IT'S A rare glimpse into a secret world, one populated by "gricers", "festoos" and "bashers". The vocabulary hints at a covert society bound by arcane codes of conduct, but you will find its members everywhere - they are trainspotters.

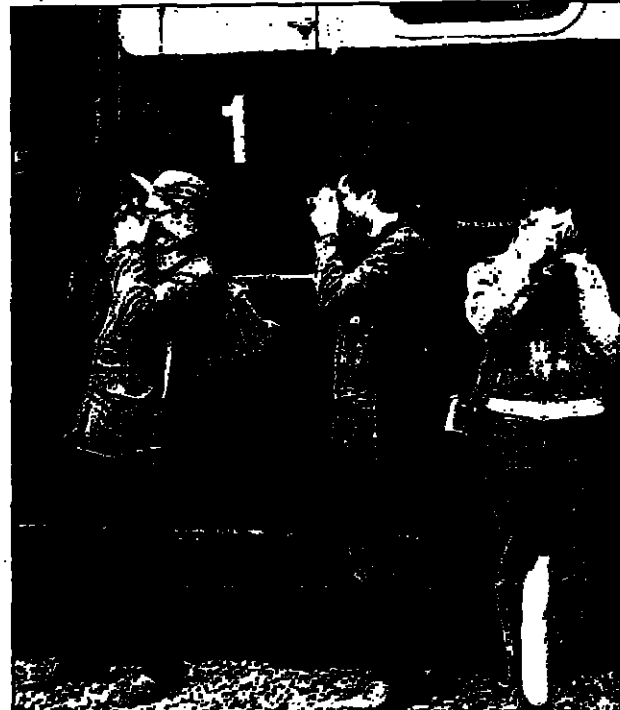
Now one rail enthusiast has broken ranks and lifted the lid on the peculiar slang that populates platforms up and down the country.

Rod Warrington, a member of the Friends of the Settle-Carlisle Line, has written about the sub-culture that obsesses fellow enthusiasts.

His glossary for the trainspotter is included in this month's issue of the campaign group's magazine.

Here is a pantheon where "gricing" (the trainspotters' term for their noble art) is home to "festoos" - older gricers encumbered with cameras, tape recorders and other gadgets.

"The young number-takers take the mick out of the people with the tape recorders," explained Peter Shaw of the Friends of the Settle-Carlisle Line. The "Festoos" in turn



'Bashers' enjoying a spot of 'gricing'

David Rose

ridicule the obsessive train number collectors ("bashers"). "Bashers" are further subdivided by their devotion to different locomotives, trains or routes and carry the monikers of "steam-bashers", "wagon

bashers" and "line-bashers". Signals become "pegs" or "sticks" and engines can be "doughnuts" (see-through engine), "choppers" (with a sound like a helicopter) or "nodding donkeys" (a bumpy ride).

Mr Warrington, 54, from Chester, said that the trainspotting oeuvre was taken very seriously by enthusiasts. "Some swear if you walk in front of their cameras. Others race trains by car. They are just maniacs."

Mr Warrington's own vice is the Settle-Carlisle line. He said: "I diagnosed my problem as Settleandcarilsleitis, apparently incurable and regarded by unfeeling wives and partners not so much as an infectious bug but as a psychiatric compulsive disorder."

He added there was an increasing amount of jargon that even he had never heard of. "I was told that 'gricing' was now the correct term for what we would be doing. Apparently 'trainspotting' had become passe," he said.

Betty Kirkpatrick, editor of *Roger's Thesaurus*, said "gricer" had already made it to the dictionaries to indicate a railway enthusiast.

"It is the nature of all groups to have their own jargon," said Ms Kirkpatrick. "It's almost like being in a secret society and having passwords, words of acceptance. It's a vocabulary designed to exclude as much as it includes."

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Missing baby found alive after crash

A 13-MONTH-OLD baby who disappeared three days ago was yesterday found alive on a mountainside near the body of his devoted grandfather.

Liam Evans was found near his grandfather Gwilym Evans's car, which had plunged 150 yards down a steep slope at a remote spot in north-west Wales, about 50 miles from Mr Evans's home in Colwyn Bay.

Liam was discovered sitting crying in thick ferns near the wrecked Vauxhall Vectra. He had survived the crash with only cuts and scratches and was flown to Glan Clywd Hospital, near Abergele, by police helicopter.

The body of 61-year-old Mr Evans, a retired police inspector, was found 20 yards further up the slope at the Horseshoe Pass, near Llangollen. Police say that it is not yet known how he died.

Detective Superintendent Eric Jones of North Wales Police said it was possible that the car could have been hidden on the mountainside for two or three days. It was eventually found by a young boy from the Wirral who was on a day out in the area - a panoramic beauty spot that attracts hundreds of visitors a day during the summer.

As forensic scientists began to try to piece together a picture of what might have happened, Det Supt Jones said it was possible that Mr Evans had managed to get Liam out of the car before losing consciousness.

"It would appear at this early stage of the investigation that it is nothing more than a tragic accident," he said.

"Liam has nothing more than a few scratches. It is remarkable how he survived."

He said that there were signs that the car had rolled

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

over. The straps on the car's child seat and the driver's seat belt were found unsecured and the driver's airbag had inflated. The spot where the car came to rest was hidden from the road, although police said the point where it left the carriageway could be seen.

Liam was found only hours after his parents pleaded for his grandfather to contact them and said his disappearance was totally out of character.

Ruth and Gary Evans said Mr Evans was devoted to the little boy and his three-year-old sister Sophia. They were at their son's bedside last night.

Det Supt Jones said the discovery of their son had been one of both "happiness and sadness".

"When I broke the news to both parents I think they were torn between elation and sadness," he said. "You can imagine the pressure the family



Ruth Evans in a press conference. Dave Kendall/PA

have been under during the last four days."

Liam and his grandfather vanished on Thursday afternoon. Mr Evans and his wife, Barbara, were looking after him while his parents took Sophia to Liverpool's Alder Hey hospital, where she is being treated for coeliac disease, which means she has to follow a gluten-free diet.

During the afternoon, Liam became boisterous and Mr Evans told his wife he would take him out for a while so that she could prepare his food. Minutes later, Mrs Evans discovered they had gone out in the car.

When they had still failed to return three hours later she reported them missing.

A massive hunt was organised and more than 100 sightings were reported to police, who said they were baffled by Mr Evans's disappearance.

He had severe arthritis which made it impossible for him to walk long distances without suffering extreme pain.

The only positive sighting was later the same day at a garage in Colwyn Bay, where Mr Evans filled the tank of his car with petrol.

A sighting of a man and a boy answering the name Liam was made later the same day in Criccieth, more than 50 miles south of Colwyn Bay, but it was not confirmed.

Det Supt Jones, who worked with Mr Evans before he retired in 1986, said he was a placid and quiet man.

He was also said to be very friendly and sincere and in all his time as an officer, had reacted well under pressure.

During his career Mr Evans earned 10 commendations and was a member of Special Branch for a time.



Gwilym Evans and his 13-month-old grandson, Liam, to whom he was devoted

Jail bill rises to £10m for 'transit' refugees

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

BRITAIN IS spending up to £10m a year jailing refugees who are being arrested as they pass through British airports on their way to seek asylum in the US.

The asylum seekers are being held because American airlines refuse to risk incurring fines by allowing them to board their planes with false papers.

Last year more than 800 of these traded refugees were jailed compared with fewer than a dozen four years ago. They are being charged with possession of false travel documents and sentenced to an average of three months in prison.

The trend, which is being linked with the 1995 introduction of carriers' liability legislation that means airlines are fined for carrying illegal immigrants, is revealed in a report today by the National Association of Probation Officers.

Some of those arrested were jailed for nine months, at a cost to the British taxpayer of about £20,000.

Harry Fletcher, the association's assistant general secretary, said: "Virtually all of them come from authoritarian countries, and the experience of British jails traumatises them further. It seems inhuman and a waste of taxpayers' money to prosecute these people." Most of the traded refugees - who are flown back to their country of origin after being released from jail in Britain - come from Iraq, Iran and Algeria.

They are among a record 4,664 foreign nationals being held in British jails. The numbers have grown by 44 per cent over the past 13 years, a rate that surpasses even the exceptional growth in the incarceration of British nationals.

The association said that, although 1,000 of these prisoners were eligible for repatriation to their country of origin, only 17 were transferred last year.

The report, *Foreign Nationals in British Jails*, also finds significant anecdotal evidence that black foreign prisoners, particularly women jailed for drug offences, are given much harsher sentences than white foreign nationals who have committed similar offences.

The report contrasts a series of female Caribbean cocaine smugglers, who are serving sentences of 10 years or more, with a French woman who received four years for importing 10 kilograms of the drug.

Mr Fletcher said: "Everyone that works in the system says that black foreigners get higher sentences than Europeans. Many foreign nationals in UK jails also had poor access to lawyers and translators, and were given little information about appeal procedures."

Steve Richards, Review, page 4

Jackson backs Blairite NEC hopefuls

GLENDA JACKSON, the minister for transport in London, will give her support today to the Blairite slate of candidates for the party's National Executive Committee.

The group running under the banner of "Members First" were also claiming last night they had the support of Cabinet heavyweights Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, and Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary.

Ms Jackson's demonstrated

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

backing for the group, by chairing a press conference in London attended by the six candidates, follows reports that the leadership is "in panic" over fears that the left-wing Grassroots Alliance is better organised and will win more seats.

The group, which includes the actor and gay rights activist Michael Cashman, will mount a counter-attack in the in-

creasingly vitriolic battle for the six seats on the NEC for constituency members.

This led last week to an attack on Liz Davies, a left-wing candidate, by the party general secretary, Tom Sawyer over the conduct of the telephone ballot.

Mr Blair's cabinet colleagues have warned the leadership to avoid having its fingerprints on the campaign by Members First to stop the left-wing slate.

The former Oscar-winning actress, who is expected to run

for the position of Mayor of London next year, is seen as a staunch supporter of Tony Blair's modernisation of the party. Her support for the group will be seen by the left as confirmation that Members First are being put up by the leadership to stop the left candidates. That was denied last night by the group's press officer, Phil Jones.

"Glenda Jackson is going to talk about the people who are in the party who support these candidates. She is going to say Robin Cook, David Blunkett

and Frank Dobson will be supporting them," said Mr Jones. "The main reason for the press conference is to give the press an opportunity to show these people are not a bunch of Blairite clones. These are not people who are on-message the whole time."

"We have no problem with people saying these are people that Tony Blair would rather have than Liz Davies. I think the difference is between people who believe that on the whole the Government is doing a good

job, and those on the hard left who want to undermine the leadership, who never wanted Blair as the leader and don't want him as Prime Minister."

Mr Jones, the researcher for Ben Bradshaw, the gay Labour MP, said Members First was set up at the instigation of a Labour supporter, who has been given a peerage by Mr Blair, to implement the "party into power" strategy paper endorsed by the annual conference last year.

"I don't think it is anything to do with left versus right at all."

It is completely crazy for the Grassroots Alliance to claim they are a centre-left grouping with representatives of the Hattersley right-wing and that we are just right-wing. Michael Cashman is not right-wing."

The candidates on the Members First slate with Mr Cashman are: Diana Jevda, Rita Stringfellow, Terry Thomas, Margaret Payne and Sylvia Tudhope. Several have strong trade union links.

Steve Richards, Review, page 4

Fizzy drinks blamed for swollen mouth epidemic

FIZZY DRINKS may be to blame for the world's worst epidemic of oral Crohn's Disease, which has struck in the west of Scotland, researchers claim.

Dental experts believe an allergic reaction to carbonated drinks could be the cause of the outbreak of the incurable illness. Crohn's Disease normally attacks the bowel but almost 500 Scots, most of them children, have developed an oral form: 88 per cent of them live on the west coast of Scotland.

This compares with just 40 cases of oral Crohn's Disease in the United States.

BY SAMANTHA POLING

Professor David Wray, professor of oral medicine at Glasgow Dental Hospital, told *Scotland on Sunday* that the disfiguring condition results in grotesquely swollen lips.

"The thing most striking is that the vast majority of them have the concurrent factor of a sensitivity especially to preservatives and flavourings."

"It is accurate to say that in terms of the prevalence of the disease there seems to be an epidemic in the west of Scotland compared to the UK and the

rest of the world. We have got over 400 patients here where as there are only 40 in the whole of the US."

Researchers at Glasgow Dental Hospital believe it may be caused by an allergic reaction to preservatives found in fizzy drinks as well as bacteria found in milk.

An extensive study into the epidemic has been conducted and experts now say that people living in the west of Scotland have a genetic predisposition to developing the allergic reaction with leads to the oral disease. It causes swelling of the lips

and facial tissue, a characteristic inflammation of the gums and a cobblestone texture on the inside of the mouth.

Recent studies show that children suffer bullying and psychological damage as a result of their disfigurement.

Oral Crohn's Disease was first discovered in 1969, although it was found only in patients who also suffered from the more common Crohn's Disease of the gut. However, the Glasgow scientists have found that only 80 of their 440 patients have the disease in both the gut and the mouth.

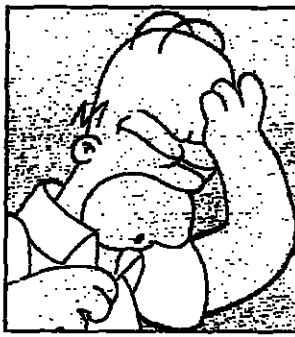
Doh! Duff beer costs £4,000

BY PAUL MCCANN
Media Editor

THE CARTOON character Homer Simpson is such a worldwide cultural icon that cases of his favourite beer - which has been banned by a judge - are changing hands at up to £4,000 each.

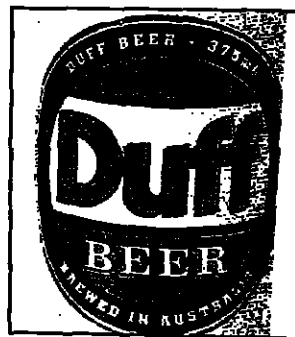
In the week that Homer was given his very own slab in the Hollywood Walk of Fame, it emerged that fans of the patriarch of *The Simpsons* are dealing in rare cases of his Duff Beer on the Internet.

Duff Beer was produced by the South Australian Brewing Company last year in homage to the world's most popular nuclear power-plant worker. It



Homer Simpson and the beer with rarity value

looks just like the beer Homer drinks, so 20th Century Fox, makers of *The Simpsons*, and Matt Groening, the cartoon's creator, took the brewery to court for trading off their show.



An Australian judge watched several hours of the series and decided that Homer regularly consumed Duff Beer, often "in copious quantities". So brewery owner Lion Nathan was told to

stop making and marketing it. The beer is now rapidly rising in price as it becomes a rarity. When it was on open sale, a case of 24 cans cost \$15 (\$24.60). Now a six-pack is being advertised on the Internet for \$750 and cases for up to \$26,300 each. One collector claims he can get \$51,000 a can.

Homer's fondness for beer is well chronicled - one of his catchphrases is "Beer me". Roger Cooper, who offers beer for sale on the Internet, shares his passion: "I have a six-pack of Duff left unopened and the carton I bought the 24 cans in."

On discovering its new value, he added plaintively: "I had a lot more but I drank it." To which Homer's reply would be: "Doh!"

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JP 11/15/98

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Jail bill rises to £10m for 'transit' refugees

'Public misled on costs of Trident'

THE GOVERNMENT has been accused of misleading the public over the cost of Britain's nuclear deterrent to the tune of up to £1bn a year.

In its recent Strategic Defence Review Labour said Britain's "nuclear warhead programme as a whole" cost £410m, but anti-nuclear campaigners claim the true cost to the taxpayer is as high as £1.5bn.

The gaping difference has been exposed by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in the type of exercise it used to carry out for Labour MPs when they were in opposition.

William Peden, CND's Parliamentary researcher, said: "Labour are quite clearly embarrassed to have inherited Trident yet done nothing to get rid of it, so they have decided instead to make it look inexpensive. They have missed out whole tranches of expenditure."

The Ministry of Defence last night dismissed the claims, saying the costs were clearly published within the review. However, CND said they had been presented to voters in a less than transparent format.

In the review, the cost of the Trident nuclear submarine is put at £114m and the cost of the whole nuclear warhead programme at £410m. Mr Peden says this fails to take into account the means of delivering the weapon - Trident subs and all the other ships, planes and submarines needed to defend them, as well as the submarine bases and personnel.

The defence review says its estimates include "the cost of decommissioning weapons withdrawn from service". But it does not appear to include the cost of decommissioning the

BY STEVE BOGGAN

nuclear submarines designed to fire missiles.

Last December, Lord Gilbert, Minister of State at the Ministry of Defence, told the House of Lords: "The cost of providing, operating, maintaining and disposing of the Royal Navy's ballistic missile submarine fleet and its missiles is estimated to be some £530m in the current financial year."

This is on top of the Government's figure of £410m, making £940m spent on all aspects of having a nuclear deterrent. CND claims that even this figure is an underestimate and might be as high as £1.5bn.

The organisation argues that only proportions of the cost of bases like Faslane and Coulport are included in the Government's figures when without Trident they would have no purpose.

CND spokeswoman Louise Edge said: "We want the Government to come clean and give a line by line detailed account - one that reveals the total cost of Britain possessing and operating nuclear weapons and does not attempt to fox the public with clever accountancy techniques or sophistry."

The Ministry of Defence said the figures published in its review were the most transparent ever. A spokesman said CND was deliberately "misrepresenting" their meaning. He said that the higher figure quoted by Lord Gilbert included some residual costs from the decommissioning of Polaris, Trident's predecessor. These were not included, however, because the review was intended to be "forward-looking" and Polaris does not figure as part of Britain's deterrent.



Spectators and performers gather on the Mound in Edinburgh, showing varying degrees of interest in the Festival. Gervaint Lewis

Political correctness is too late for St Joan

EDINBURGH DIARY

IT SEEMED like the moment that political correctness had finally caught up with the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Children from Kirkcaldy High School presenting a play about Joan of Arc were told by the Fringe office that their piece contravened Edinburgh District Council rules on violence against women.

And the Fringe office declared it was not prepared to broadcast scenes on the special screen showing Fringe excerpts in Princes Street Gardens. It had to "protect" the public from disturbing scenes.

Only after teachers had dried the tears of their bewildered pupils did it emerge that the Fringe office had confused the children's play about St Joan, which they had entitled "The Lark", with another piece by the same name that was put on by the National Film School, which showed a woman being beaten.

So, the woman being beaten is now banned from broadcast. The other piece - you know, the one where the woman is tortured and burnt on the stake - is ruled to be okay. Confusing stuff, this political correctness, and not just for the dummies at the Fringe office.

Perhaps the most emotionally incorrect comedy on offer is *Love on the Throne*. This slightly surreal piece by the National Theatre of Brent is a sideways view by its two male performers of the romance, wedding and divorce of Charles and Diana.

It was to be shown this time last year but was cancelled because of Diana's death. The jokes are many, perhaps the most memorable the one that makes Charles's mistress a sofa manufacturer: Camilla Parker Knoll.

But it is nevertheless the case that the humour, written when Diana was still alive, is leavened by events and now sticks in the throat a little. Humour is topical, not timeless. I wondered whether they would dare to perform on the anniversary of Diana's death.

"Ah," responds the spokeswoman for the assembly rooms director William Burdett-Coutts. "The anniversary falls on a Monday and Mondays have been programmed for resting days for the show." For which I nominate Mr Burdett-Coutts for a new Fringe diplomacy award.

Good to see the first reverse-concession ticket being sold. Comedian Arthur Smith is doing a site-specific show on a putting green. Tickets are advertised at "One pound or ten pounds if you're on expenses".

"Break a leg" is the well-known cry of encouragement in theatrical circles from backstage staff to performers. Best not to shout it though to Paul Merton when he does his first stand up act for 10 years at the festival. *The Have I Got News For You* star last did stand-up comedy here at the festival in 1988 and appears to have been too traumatised by the result to attempt it again over the next decade. What happened? He fell and a broke leg.

DAVID LISTER

BA gives a final warning to drunken passengers

BY IAN SHOESMITH

AIRCRAFT PASSENGERS who disrupt British Airways flights are to be targeted in a "yellow card" warning scheme, it was announced yesterday.

BA is to launch a trial project in which final warnings will be issued to anti-social passengers in an attempt to reduce unruly behaviour, otherwise known as "air rage", which has increased by 400 per cent over the last three years.

The notices, which warn disorderly passengers that further bad behaviour could lead to their arrest and being liable

to any costs incurred by the airline, will begin worldwide from 1 September.

Last month, a BA jet made an unscheduled landing in Tenerife after a drunken passenger attempted to force his way into the pilot's cabin during a flight from Rio de Janeiro to London.

While excess drinking can lead to trouble, it is smokers who cause cabin crew the most problems. Smoking was involved in around 70 per cent of

the 260 serious incidents recorded by BA last year.

This was highlighted three weeks ago when a pilot for BA's bargain operator, Go, was questioned by Italian police for allegedly refusing to allow his 148 passengers to leave the aircraft in Milan.

Captain Brian Bliss is thought to have been angered after none of the passengers on the flight owned up to breaking a no-smoking ban by lighting up in the lavatories, putting safety at risk.

David Hyde, BA's director of safety, security and environment, hoped the warning scheme would carry weight in courts around the world should prosecutions be made. He pledged his support for air crews to take a firm line, saying: "Cabin crew are usually the first in the firing line when it comes to dealing with air rage but they are certainly not alone when it comes to tackling it."

He added that BA supported Captain Bliss's actions, claiming that smoking in lavatories jeopardised a flight's safety.

Parents' group due for reform

BY BEN RUSSELL

Education Correspondent

A RESCUE package has been drawn up to reform Britain's largest and richest parents' group after a damning Charity Commission report.

Members of the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations, which represents parents of children at 11,000 schools, will vote later this year on a set of measures to give the troubled body a new constitution.

Richard Hill of accountants KPMG, who was appointed the charity's interim manager in February, said: "The message I'm hearing is that the NCPA must continue."

The confederation was heavily criticised by Charity Commissioners last year after an investigation into allegations of mismanagement.

Commissioners had told the charity to carry out a complete strategic review, improve its links with members and re-visit its financial controls after finding the organisation had no overall strategy or direction, was obsessed with secrecy and had been side-tracked by internal disputes.

Reforms drawn up by Mr Hill involves holding elections for 10

IN BRIEF

Lockerbie bomb trial hopes raised
JIM SWIRE, a spokesman for the British relatives of victims of the 1988 Lockerbie bombing yesterday welcomed reports that a secret delegation from the Arab world had travelled to Libya to press for a trial of the two men accused of the outrage, which claimed 270 lives.

Banks brought to account
BANKS HAVE come under fire for "slap dash" treatment of customers after a review commissioned by ITV's *World in Action* looked at 45 personal, small business and mortgage accounts in the West Yorkshire town of Ilkley and showed 77 per cent had been overcharged.

11 arrests in genetic crop protest
ELEVEN GREEN campaigners were arrested yesterday after genetically-engineered crops were uprooted from a field in Boothby Graffio, near Lincoln. Three members of the GenetiX Snowball direct action group pulling 10 sugar beet plants from the ground at Sharpe's Seeds Ltd.

Robots' Atlantic flight nearly over
THREE TINY robotic aeroplanes, attempting the first unmanned flight across the Atlantic, are expected to land on the Scottish island of Benbecula, in the Outer Hebrides, today from St John's in Newfoundland.

Teachers consulted over pay
SCHOOL HEADTEACHERS and deputies are to be questioned by the National Union of Teachers on proposals to change the way they are paid, including an extension of performance-related pay.

Lottery numbers
THE WINNING numbers in Saturday's National Lottery draw were 3, 5, 15, 22, 31 and 35, with bonus number 47.

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Grand Jury: America holds its breath as the US leader finally testifies over allegations of adultery and perjury

Clinton faces his moment of truth

THIS AFTERNOON William Jefferson Clinton is due to become the first President of the United States to testify before a grand jury in defence of his own conduct. It is an event not only without precedent, but fraught with risk - for his presidency, for his political legacy, for his reputation, for his family.

Washington's establishment, including the mainstream media, has been feverishly anticipating Mr Clinton's testimony for the best part of a month. From the time he enters the White House Map Room to begin his evidence on closed circuit TV to the court, to when he addresses the nation (as he is fully expected to do), the political world will be on hold.

The White House has been in crisis mode for three weeks, since the former White House trainee, Monica Lewinsky, agreed terms with the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, for giving her version of her relationship with the President.

Few, if any, White House staff have been privy to the President's thinking. Partly this is because it would have exposed them to the risk of being called to account before the grand jury. It is partly also because Mr Clinton is not in the habit of confiding in others on such matters, except perhaps his wife.

As the White House spokesman, Mike McCurry, said soon after the first allegations broke, the relationship must be "complicated", why else would he not have explained it? Some 70 per cent of Americans now tell pollsters that they believe Mr Clinton had an affair with Ms Lewinsky, and lied about it. That number has risen steadily since January.

Until now, an only a slightly smaller majority (63 per cent) have said they approve of how Mr Clinton is doing his job. Depending on how Mr Clinton testifies, that public support could change. The media consensus is that if Mr Clinton goes back on his earlier denials, the reaction may be unpredictable. "It could alter the President's whole relationship with the American people," said one commentator.

Mr Clinton's difficulties in the Lewinsky matter date back to sworn testimony he gave on 17 January to lawyers in the sexual harassment case brought by former Arkansas state employee Paula Jones.

While hedging and fudging most of his replies, Mr Clinton expressly denied a sexual relationship with Ms Lewinsky. Four days later, the American media published allegations, then transcribed excerpts from tape-recordings, claiming Ms Lewinsky had had an affair with the President. Twice in the next week, Mr Clinton used TV to tell America that there

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

had been no sexual relationship.

Today, Mr Clinton must face the same grand jury - 23 randomly selected individuals, of whom most are reported to be women and black - that has already heard evidence from his staff and Monica Lewinsky. The most obviously safe option, personally and for his presidency, would be for him to stick to his earlier denials of a sexual relationship with Ms Lewinsky.

That only works if the denial was true, and/or if there is no evidence to contradict it. All the twisting and turning from White House "sources" in recent days suggests this option is closed. A denial before a federal grand jury that was subsequently proved to be false would put Mr Clinton on a direct route to impeachment.

This leaves him with having to decide how much to admit, and how. A dramatic outpouring of guilt and repentance appears to have been rejected. However, kindly disposed the American public might be to a penitent President, a confession would leave Mr Clinton open to a charge of perjury relating to his testimony in the Paula Jones case. Opinions differ as to whether that would be serious enough to warrant impeachment proceedings.

The favoured option seems to be a middle way steered between admitting some form of relationship and denying perjury. This might let him off some legal hooks, but the political - and private - difficulties would remain.

How would American public opinion receive such a partial admission in the light of his televised "I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Ms Lewinsky"? "Sex is sex," said Ann Lewis, the White House communications director, after the first allegations broke, and Americans seem to agree. They might find legalistic definitions of what constitutes sexual relations more off-putting than a direct confession.

Hillary Clinton could also be embarrassed because she said in January that "it would be a very serious offence" if "a President" were proved to have had an adulterous affair in the White House, and lied about it.

This is why, despite the American public's professed distaste for the Lewinsky saga, the affair known as "Zipporah" cannot be laughed off. Those who draw judicial comparisons with Watergate and political parallels with Vietnam are not exaggerating.

What Mr Clinton says today, and how America reacts tomorrow, will determine his own, and the country's future. Leading article, page 3



Clutching a bible, President Clinton arrives for church in Washington yesterday with his wife Hillary

Reuters

Tawdry history of sex in the White House

BY MARCUS TANNER

WHEN IT comes to sexual indiscretions, Bill Clinton may have scored higher than most presidents, but his conduct has differed only in degree from that of most of his White House predecessors.

A selection of American presidents surveyed in the *Washington Times* newspaper shows all of them merited a black spot on a scoreboard of sex crimes that range from the use of prostitutes and fornication (defined as sex with an unmarried woman) through to much more heinous misdeeds, such as group sex or being linked to the "unusual" death of a lover.

The republic's founding father, George Washington, receives only one black mark for the crime, mild by the lax standards of the eighteenth century, of adultery. Thomas Jefferson, a relative libertine, on the other hand, was awarded four: for mistresses, fornication, adultery (sex with a married woman) and fathering illegitimate children.

America's presidents in the nineteenth century were, by and large an obscure group of men, who seem to have made up for low profiles by indulging in peccadilloes. Grover Cleveland - not a name much bandied about now - earns four black marks, for mistress, prostitutes, fornication and illegitimate children. Though not on the straight and narrow, the presidents of the last century were, it seems, straight: James Buchanan was the sole American president in the entire list to stray into the column denoting homosexual affairs.

The private lives of US leaders in both centuries pale into insignificance compared to those of our own era. After the prim and dainty milk-and-cookie years of Roosevelt and Eisenhower, the number of black marks rockets under Kennedy, Johnson and Clinton.

Clinton gets seven marks - for, among others, having a mistress, using prostitutes, fornication, sex with White House staff, group sex ... narrowly beating Johnson who did not, as far as the newspaper knows, have group sex. But even Clinton and Johnson fall short of JFK's awesome tally.

Longest day of the President's life

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

SHORTLY BEFORE 1pm today, Bill Clinton will walk across to the White House map room. On the wall, a map shows Allied troops encircling Berlin in April 1945. This is where President Franklin Roosevelt would check the progress of the Second World War; it is where the US President will give his testimony.

The President will be joined by three legal advisers: his private lawyers, David Kendall and Nicole Seligman, and his

White House counsel, Charles Ruff. Along with his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, they have formed his inner circle in the past few weeks. Lawyers are not normally allowed in the room during grand jury probes, but an exception has been made in this case.

On the other side of the room will be Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, and

some of his staff. They will probably include Jackie Bennett, his chief deputy in Washington, and Robert Bittman, day-to-day manager of the Lewinsky investigation. Mr Starr will probably leave the questioning to his aides.

Mr Starr's team will ask questions for between three to four hours. They have said that this will be the only session with the President, so everything must be cleared up in one afternoon.

The questions and answers will be recorded by a video camera, and sent down a fibre-optic cable. This will be scrambled, of course, so that no one can intercept them on their way to the grand jury room, a few blocks away at the Pretymann court house. The jury will not be allowed to ask questions as they have been in previous testimony.

The timing may well overrun. It is unlikely to be much before six o'clock that the

President returns to his own office. It is then that he must decide whether or not to address the nation. If he wants to, then prime time - between 7pm and 8pm - would be possible. So some time around midnight in London, the President may appear before the cameras to explain what he has always promised he would. He would probably not speak for more than 10 minutes, if the decision to appear is taken.

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The trials of a Southern state still haunted by its racist past

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Hattiesburg

THE CEILING fans are turning slowly in the Forrest County Court House, stirring the dust-laden air with its scent of old documents and floor polish. It seems a tranquil place. Yet this room, in the centre of the old Mississippi town of Hattiesburg, has witnessed pitched battles in the war between the state's white supremacists and black citizens who simply wanted their rights.

Today one of the last chapters in that war will unfold when the trial of a white-haired, grandfatherly old man opens in Hattiesburg.

Sam Bowers is accused of murdering Vernon Dahmer, a civil rights worker, in 1966. He has been in this court before, charged with the same crime. But no jury would convict him - not in a courtroom that flies the Mississippi state flag with its Confederate cross in one corner; not here, where the memorial to the Confederate dead stands proudly outside on Main Street, just down the road from the Masonic Temple and the Methodist church.

This time it may be different. Mississippi has changed a lot in 30 years. The jury will be selected today, and it is unlikely to be an all-white body, as it has been before. Nor will he face a judge who, like those who have sat in judgement in the past, is essentially in sympathy with a man who was once the Imperial Grand Wizard of the White



The usual suspect: Sam Bowers after his arrest in May

AP

Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. But there are still some people in town who do not see why the case should be exhumed, who called the local paper, the *Hattiesburg American*, after it ran a special report and asked why it had bothered.

It bothered because Vernon Dahmer wanted nothing more than to help black people to vote. For that crime, he was hated by white supremacists. He always suspected they would come to get him, especially after his friend Medgar Evers, who also worked for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was killed.

One night, they came for Mr Dahmer, fired at his home at Kelly Settlement and threw Molotov cocktails into the house. He fired back and his

family were able to escape, but he died in hospital the next day.

Sam Bowers was arrested for the murder, along with others; but four separate juries could not decide on his guilt. Four other Klansmen were tried and convicted, but the Imperial Wizard himself was not. The case was buried for nearly three decades, only to be re-activated when a new District Attorney was elected.

In the District Attorney's office next door to the courthouse, Bob Elfrich, the assistant DA, sits in an office all but submerged in documents: faxes, scribbles on scraps of paper and neat summaries on yellow legal pads line every surface.

Mr Elfrich pulls intermittently on a Camel Light as he outlines the reasons why it is

important to go through the case all over again.

"My Dad died when I was 12 years old," he says. "I think of him almost daily, when I'm driving in my car, or whatever. I can't imagine the things that are going through the minds of the Dahmer family. They saw their father, with the skin burnt off him."

Beyond any personal feelings, this is part of cleansing the name of a state which for decades was synonymous with racism, savagery, injustice. "The Klan is what gave Mississippi the bad reputation. But they do not represent Mississippi then, or now. They are a small number of people." But, he says, "It's a side of Mississippi that has to be resolved. You just don't get away with murder." Of course, "there are

quite a number of people that don't want it opened up. But it needs to be done." He falls silent again, and taps the ash off his cigarette.

Sam Bowers was, is, a very bright man, different from many who wore the hoods and carried the burning crosses. "The typical Mississippi redneck doesn't have sense enough to know what he is doing," he once told a supporter. "I have to use him for my own cause and direct his every action to fit my plan." His group was one of the most violent in the country. It was not just a racist group: it was a well-organised terrorist gang.

There is new evidence against him: one new witness who was there, and another who has recently appeared on the scene.

Two other men were arrested with Mr Bowers: Charles Noble, 55, and Deavours Nix, 72, who is fighting lung cancer. "As ironic as this sounds, he was complaining because he has lung cancer and the radiology burned his lungs up," said state Attorney General Mike Moore. "Guess what? That's exactly how Mr Dahmer died." If convicted, each faces life - which means 10 years. For Mr Bowers, 73, that will be life.

Some in the civil rights community are sceptical, however, saying that whatever they may think of Mr Bowers, he may not get a fair trial. Besides, they say, what about the crimes that continue, and which the law enforcement agencies do not pursue?



Women praying for peace at a church service in Kinshasa yesterday

David Gutterfelder

Foreigners flee Congo mayhem

FOREIGNERS WORKING in Kinshasa, capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo, were fleeing yesterday as a rebel army advanced from the east.

The United States closed its embassy at the weekend and flew its remaining staff out of the country. France said it did not plan to close its diplomatic mission, but has been arranging evacuations for French and other foreign citizens.

A French government aircraft carrying 187 people fleeing the fighting arrived in Paris yesterday. Another 180 Belgians also flew out of Kinshasa. Some 350 Lebanese, most of them women and children, arrived at Beirut airport. About a hundred other foreigners fled to South Africa.

An unknown number of foreign nationals crossed the Congo River by ferry to Brazzaville.

BY MARCUS TANNER

capital of the neighbouring Congo Republic.

The government of President Laurent Kabila announced that it was securing bases in the east of the former Zaire to attack the rebel forces, apparently composed of ethnic Tutsis backed by the Tutsi-led state of Rwanda.

The President himself, however, has almost certainly joined the exodus from the capital. The latest reports said he was now in the southern city of Lubumbashi, a stronghold from his own days as a rebel leader before he overthrew President Mobutu Sese Soko in May last year.

Rebel leaders at a rally of 4,000 supporters in the eastern town of Bukavu at the weekend declared they were heading towards Kinshasa. "Kabila

should quit power, or we will capture him alive," one of the rebel commanders was quoted as saying. The rebels said their forces were now only 95 miles east of Kinshasa.

Foreigners fleeing the capital dismissed government claims of repelling the rebels' advance. "Kabila's forces are very nervous," Arnold Roeder, a German, said at a South African air base at Pretoria. "It looks like the rebels have a great chance to take over Kinshasa. Kabila's forces look weak."

The rebel advance has created a climate of hysterical suspicion in Kinshasa, aggravated by newspaper and radio reports accusing France and the US of engaging in a sinister plot to destabilise the country and reimpose colonial rule in the former Belgian possession. Student demonstrators

at the weekend waved anti-American placards and some vented their fury by attacking foreigners in the streets.

The uprising in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo is linked to the genocide perpetrated against neighbouring Rwanda's Tutsi minority by the Hutus in 1994. The slaughter brought a Tutsi-led government to power in Rwanda, which has proved militantly determined to strike at its Hutu enemies both in and outside the country.

Mr Kabila was brought to power in Kinshasa with Tutsi support, from Rwanda and from Tutsis in the east of Congo. A year on he has grievously disappointed his former backers, partly through his failure to halt continuing Hutu incursions into Rwanda. Now the Tutsis seem determined - and able - to remove him.

Serbs crush separatists' last bastion

SERB FORCES overran the last stronghold of the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) at Junik yesterday, in what appeared to be the culmination of a military offensive launched last month against ethnic Albanian separatists.

Junik, near the border with Albania, was the organisational, logistical and weapons distribution centre for the KLA, which is fighting for independence from Serbia.

The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug announced the fall of Junik, 50 miles west of the re-

BY ISMET HAJDARI
in Pristina

seen with triumphant soldiers sitting on top of their vehicles, giving the Serbs' traditional three-fingered salute.

For several weeks, government forces have been driving the KLA from one stronghold after another. Their gains, however, have proved difficult to maintain. Once the Serbs move out, the Albanian fighters, sometimes still in uniforms with KLA emblems, tend to move quickly back in.

Albanian sources in Pristina said that in spite of the recent defeats, the KLA would regroup, reorganise and continue the armed struggle against President Slobodan Milosevic's government in Belgrade. Kosovo's borders with Macedonia and Albania are lightly patrolled and weapons filter in from both countries.

The pro-Albanian Kosovo Information Centre claimed that fighting was continuing yesterday in Logja and heavy artillery had destroyed part of the village. Government forces were said to have attacked with tanks and helicopters.

"It's all a very alarming picture," said Kris Janowski, a spokesman for the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees. He said they were concerned about reports of a Serb attack on woods around Decani, where about 30,000 displaced Kosovo Albanians were believed to be camped.

The latest Serb offensive quashed hopeful speculation that Western-mediated peace talks between Belgrade and Kosovo Albanian parties might begin this week.



gional capital Pristina, after almost two weeks under siege. The report said KLA fighters tried to escape to Albania but were blocked by Serb army border guards and had "dispersed" into mountain forests.

Serbian reporters who got into Junik said up to 1,000 Kosovo fighters were believed to have been based there, with several hundred civilians. The village was allegedly deserted but not seriously damaged.

On the main road linking the towns of Pec and Decani, near Junik, a huge column of Yugoslav army tanks could be

Swedes hunt for monster in lake

A TEAM of hunters began a search of Sweden's Great Lake yesterday for a creature said to have inhabited it for at least 360 years.

Fifteen vessels carrying researchers and six divers set off from Osterson, in Jamtland County, central Sweden, equipped with an underwater video camera and echo equipment, hoping to solve the centuries-old mystery.

The town of Osterson, 370 miles north-west of Stockholm on the banks of Sweden's fifth-largest lake, has been puzzled by reported sightings of a horse-like, or snake-like, creature in the Great Lake.

The sightings, resembling those of the Loch Ness monster, have been reported on 150 occasions by 450 people. They started in 1635 when a local clergyman mentioned the creature in a parish register.

The frequency of sightings rose throughout the 19th century. In 1894 a group from Osterson set up the "Company to Capture the Great Lake Monster" to trap the animal, using as bait pigs and live

BY BELINDA GOLDSMITH
in Stockholm

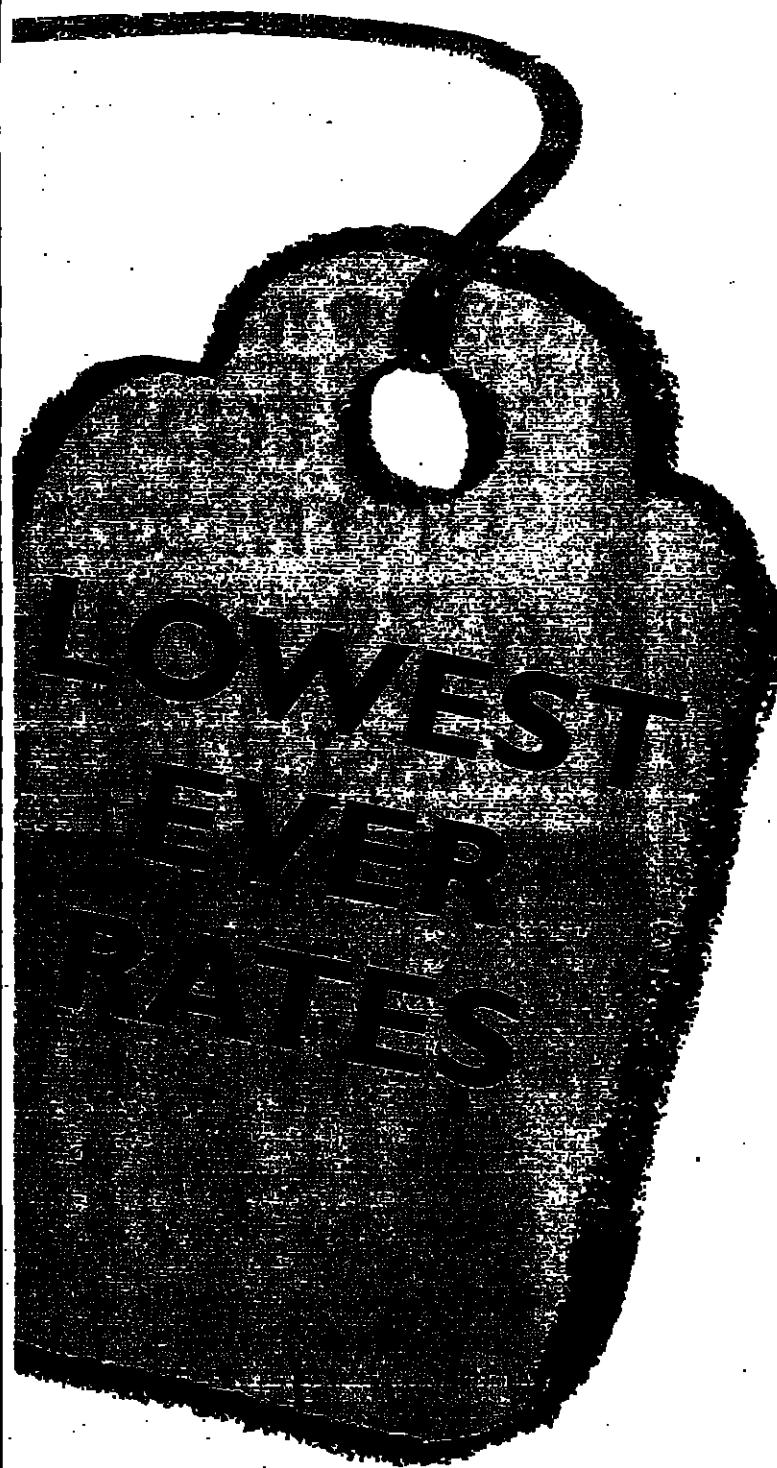
calves. King Oscar II, known for his interest in scientific phenomena, became involved and contributed funds. There are no records of success, however.

The project spokesman, Anders Brattgrä, said this year's effort was by far the largest and involves a British specialist, Adrian Shine, who has hunted the Loch Ness monster for at least 20 years.

Little is known about the Great Lake of Sweden, which is very large and very deep. Often locals discover rare fish of up to three feet or more in length. "If we have no luck this year we will organise another search, an even bigger one, next year," Mr Brattgrä said.

Some reports have suggested a large eel, about 10 feet long and three feet wide, while others report a large snake of up to 46 feet with a small, dog-like head. In 1986, the county administration of Jamtland declared anyone trying to capture, injure or kill the monster could be prosecuted.

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BUSINESS

13

BRIEFING

Flextech chief executive dies

ROGER LUARD (below), chief executive of Flextech, the television group, died last weekend, it was announced yesterday. Mr Luard, who was 49, had been at home on sick leave since May after he was affected by a rare neurological virus. In his absence, Flextech's chairman, Adam Singer, and managing director, Brent Harman, have been running the company.

In the space of 12 years, Mr Luard transformed Flextech from a small oil services company into the leading supplier of channels for the UK cable and satellite television market. His major coup came in 1997, when he snatched a deal to produce channels in a joint venture with the BBC from under the nose of BSkyB.

Mr Singer said: "Roger was an exceptional man who brought to Flextech a heady cocktail of charm, wit and entrepreneurial clear thinking that helped build this company."

Mr Luard survived by his wife, Roly, and two children, Harry and Isabella.



Nomura leads race for Thistle

NOMURA, the acquisitive Japanese bank, is the frontrunner in the race to buy the Thistle Hotel Group, in a deal worth up to £1.5bn. The finance house is believed to be in exclusive negotiations with Brierley Investments, the chain's major shareholder. Nomura is thought to have pulled ahead of a shortlist of five preferred bidders, which also includes venture capital group Blackstone and French hotel operator Accor.

Thistle, which owns 91 hotels around the country, has strong presence in London, where it owns 24 hotels, including the Tower Thistle at Tower Bridge and the Mount Royal at Marble Arch.

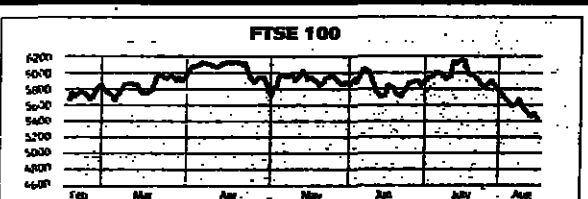
First woman on KPMG board

RUTH ANDERSON yesterday became the first woman to be appointed to the board of the accounting firm KPMG in its 131-year history. Ms Anderson has been promoted to the post of partner and will play a part in shaping KPMG's future strategy.

The 44-year-old, who has worked with KPMG for 21 years and headed the group's tax practice in the South-east, said her success was partly owed to being in the "right place at the right time."

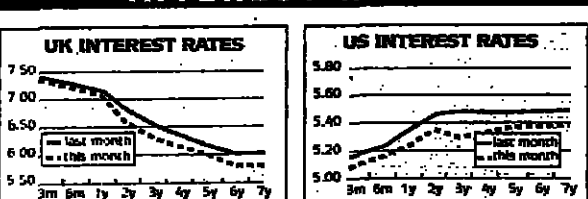
She is among six new partners to be promoted to the 18-member board, which is the youngest in KPMG's history, with an average age of 47.

STOCK MARKETS



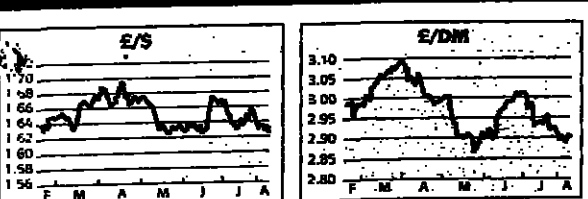
Index	Close	Wk's ch	Wk's ch (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	YTD
FTSE 100	5455.00	-225.40	-3.92	6183.7	4382.8	4.019
FTSE 250	5182.50	-140.50	-2.64	5970.9	4428.3	3.88
FTSE 350	2633.20	-101.90	-3.73	2959.1	2141.8	3.993
FTSE All Share	2562.20	-88.48	-3.70	2886.52	2106.39	3.972
NASDAQ	2333.40	-79.70	-3.30	2793.8	2222.6	3.611
FTSE 1000	1278.70	-41.80	-3.17	1517.1	1225.2	3.971
FTSE 1000	1001.00	-43.00	-4.12	1146.9	965.9	1.349
FTSE 1000	1000.18					
Dow Jones	8425.00	-173.02	-2.01	9367.84	6971.32	1.753
Nikkei	15123.93	-705.24	-4.66	18466.35	14488.21	1.007
Hong Kong	7224.69	206.28	2.94	18555.51	6544.79	5.638
Dax	5447.90	-133.32	-2.39	6217.83	3487.24	2.949

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	10 year	30 year	Long bond	Yr. chg
UK	7.74	0.49	7.67	0.17	5.59	-1.45	5.32
US	5.69	-0.05	5.75	-0.32	5.40	-0.86	5.55
Japan	0.66	0.08	0.66	-0.02	1.47	-0.86	2.00
Germany	3.50	0.24	3.74	0.15	4.46	-1.19	5.14

CURRENCIES



Index	Friday	Wk's ch	Wk's ch (%)	Yr. ago
Dollar	1.6185	-1.15c	-1.5872	
D-Mark	2.9186	+1.91p	2.9238	
Yen	236.75	-11.56	187.47	
£ Index	104.30	+0.40	101.80	

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Wk's ch	Wk's ch (%)	Yr. ago
Brent Oil (\$)	11.50	-0.41	19.04	
Gold (\$)	284.05	-1.60	324.45	
Silver (\$)	5.14	-0.27	4.48	

TOURIST RATES

Index	Close	Wk's ch	Wk's ch (%)	Yr. ago
Australia (\$)	2.6197			
Austria (schillings)	19.76			
Belgium (francs)	58.07			
Canada (\$)	2.3888			
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8236			
Denmark (krone)	10.77			
Finland (markka)	8.6448			
France (francs)	9.4332			
Germany (marks)	2.8235			
Greece (drachma)	473.52			
Hong Kong (\$)	12.14			
Ireland (pounds)	1.1162			
India (rupees)	64.24			
Italy (lira)	5.5161			
Japan (yen)	236.75			
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.5091			
Malta (lira)	0.6156			

MPs want biotech watchdog

BRITAIN'S embattled biotechnology companies should have their own independent watchdog with sweeping powers to regulate the industry, a leading parliamentary committee has concluded.

The regulator's main task would be to vet public statements made by companies on the progress of their drugs' clinical trials to make sure they are not misleading. The move is designed to restore confidence in biotechnology companies in the financial community following the British Biotech scandal.

In their long-awaited report on the affair, due to be published

today, the Science and Technology Select Committee will also call for a code requiring pharmaceutical companies to appoint at least one non-executive director with scientific experience to the board.

The all-party group of MPs is set to argue that the measures are needed to avoid a repeat of the scandal engulfing British Biotech, the UK's largest biotechnology group.

For the past five months, the troubled company has been riven by a bitter feud between its outgoing chief executive Dr Keith McCullagh and its former

head of clinical trials, Dr Andrew Miller.

Dr Miller has alleged that the board of British Biotech, led by Dr McCullagh, issued over-optimistic press statements on two of the company's star drugs. The company has repeatedly refuted the allegations and has accused Dr Miller of lifting the secrecy on some of the drugs' trials. Dr Miller was sacked in April after airing his concerns to one institutional shareholder.

The scandal has undermined investors' confidence in the whole sector, leading to a sharp fall in the prices of biotechnology stocks and

hindering many companies' ability to raise cash on the stock market. Biotechnology companies need external funds to pay for development costs because their balance sheets tend to remain in the red until a drug is successfully launched on to the market.

After a three-month inquiry into the implications for the industry, the MPs concluded that the appointment of an independent regulator and directors with scientific knowledge were crucial to restore investors' confidence, and help fledgling companies to raise research cash.

They will call for the rapid

implementation of measures to prevent any lasting damage to the industry. Sources close to the committee said yesterday that the MPs believed that the events at British Biotech were partly the result of a lax regulatory regime.

"They (the MPs) don't think that the regulatory system is adequate at the moment. There is clearly a need for a tighter framework," the sources said.

They added that a regulator could help ease the "tension between the companies' need to keep investors informed and the urge to issue optimistic statements on their products".

The appointment to the

board of at least one non-executive director with pharmaceutical experience would also contribute to solve the problem. The idea was first mooted by Peter Lewis, British Biotech's former head of research, in evidence to the committee. The committee accepted the idea because, said the sources, "the MPs have some reservations on the knowledge base of non-executive directors. Boards need to count on someone who is scientifically proficient."

The report will also criticise the British Biotech's board for their handling of the affair, while Dr Miller is said to emerge largely unscathed.

Pay deals stay high as growth tails off

PAY AWARDS are showing few signs of slowing down in spite of growing signs that higher interest rates and the strong pound are putting the brakes on economic growth.

Two comprehensive surveys of recent pay deals, due out today, show that average pay awards are still in the 3-4.5 per cent bracket. The data is likely to raise fears that the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee may be tempted to raise interest rates when it meets next.

Both studies - by the Confederation of British Industry and Incomes Data Services, the consultancy - point to a powerful two-way pull on pay settlements. While slowing economic growth is prompting employers to temper their awards, they are also under pressure to make sure earnings keep up with rising living costs.

Further evidence of slowing economic growth is likely to emerge this week with figures from Trade Indemnity, the credit insurance group, showing that in the three months to June more orders were cancelled than new ones placed.

The CBI study shows that in

the three months to July, manufacturing pay settlements edged up slightly to an average of 3.7 per cent, compared to 3.6 per cent in the three months to April and 3.1 per cent in the same period last year. This rise is in spite of repeated complaints from manufacturers that the strength of sterling, brought on by higher interest rates, is causing a recession.

Pay deals in the services industry are also on the rise. The CBI found the average pay award rising to 4.5 per cent in the period to July, up from 4.1 per cent in April. Companies said cost of living increases and the need to keep staff were behind the rise.

Meanwhile, IDS found that pay awards were clustered in the 3-4.5 per cent range in the Spring and Summer. A typical example was Boots the Chemists, where staff received an average 3.75 per cent pay rise. However, it concludes that the conflicting pressures of rising inflation and slowing growth are affecting pay rates.

The figures will raise fears that the economy is slipping

into a period of "stagflation" which combines rising inflation with slowing growth. They may provide further ammunition for the Bank to keep interest rates high. When the MPC raised rates in June, it argued that earnings growth was incompatible with its long-term inflation target of 2.5 per cent.

At the time, the Bank suggested that earnings growth would have to fall below 4.5 per cent in order to be sustainable. The most recent official figures showed headline earnings growth falling to 5 per cent in May from 5.4 per cent in the previous month.

The CBI says 43 per cent of the respondents cited an inability to raise prices as providing a drag on pay settlements. However, 41 per cent said the rising cost of living was keeping pay deals high.

The figures come at the beginning of a key week for UK economic statistics. On Tuesday, the Retail Prices Index figures for July are released. Those statistics are followed by retail sales data for July on Wednesday and second quarter Gross Domestic Product figures on Thursday.

Telewest brings in Pepsi man to lift cable appeal

TELEWEST, the cable operator, is set to appoint an executive from PepsiCo, the US drinks and food group, as its new chief executive.

Tony Illesley, who is currently president of Walkers Snack Foods, should be confirmed in the post early next month. Mr Illesley, in his early 40s, has been running Walkers in the UK for the past three years.

His appointment follows an extensive search by Telewest following the departure of former chief executive Stephen Davidson in April.

Telewest had been looking to appoint a British executive with marketing experience to raise the company's appeal.

He will be joining Telewest just as the cable sector is coming back into vogue after a lengthy slump.

Shares in all the cable operators have risen sharply on the back of rapid consolidation in the industry and growing optimism about their ability to combine television, telephone and high-speed Internet access services. Telewest shares have more than doubled in the past few months alone and the company is now poised to join the FTSE 100 index.

Nevertheless, Mr Illesley will still have a lot to do. His first job will be to oversee the integration

of General Cable, the rival operator which Telewest bought earlier this year.

The company is also still struggling to dispel its public image of shoddy customer service. Recent results showed that Telewest's market penetration in both telephony and television is almost static while churn rates remain high.

While Mr Illesley should bring much-needed marketing acumen to Telewest, his lack of industry experience may prove a problem. His appointment may be short term.

Analysts believe that further consolidation could leave the UK with just one cable operator instead of the current three.

Smaller DIY stores 'will join forces to survive'

THE DO-IT-YOURSELF retail market is set to enter a period of consolidation, with the smaller players expected to join forces to survive the impending economic slowdown, according to an influential report out today.

Verdict, the retail research group, argues that the latest bout of consolidation in the sector could lead to a three-way merger between Do It All (the troubled chain put up for sale by Boots), Great Mills (controlled by building materials group RMC), and Focus.

Verdict says that as consumer spending slows down, these three small players will need to link up to compete

with market leaders B&Q, owned by Kingfisher, and Sainsbury's Homebase.

"There are too many stores for the market. If consolidation does not happen, the weaker players will fail by the wayside," said Verdict chairman Richard Hyman.

A merged entity encompassing Do It All, Great Mills and Focus would have a 7.5 per cent market share and sales of £745m, overtaking Wickes as the third largest DIY chain.

The report shows that the DIY sales remained buoyant last year, posting an increase of 10.4 per cent to £11.7bn - the

strongest rise of the 1990s. Verdict warns that growth in 1998 will fall to under 5 per cent, due to the economic slowdown, but sales will still remain at "respectable" levels.

In spite of strong sales growth, the number of superstores continues to fall as chains move to larger shops such as B&Q's Warehouse.

"We do not expect superstore numbers to see much growth. What is happening is a qualitative change in favour of larger stores with wider offer of complementary merchandise," Verdict says.

"The DIY sector is pretty robust and will remain so," said Mr Hyman.

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK



YOUR STARTER FOR 10: Who inherited a family undertaking business in Manchester, now owns Land's End and John O'Groats, rescued the company that made Del Boy's Reliant Robin, and has just bought the Snowdon Mountain Railway?

Step forward Kevin Leech, a 55-year-old professional investor, who has just been approached by the National Trust to see how the two will get on as neighbours, now that the Trust is set to buy the peak of Snowdon.

When Mr Leech bought the railway three weeks ago, he had no idea that Richard Williams, whose family had farmed a third of Snowdon for 14 generations, wanted to sell a 4,000-acre area of the mountain, including the peak.

Then a week ago the National Trust announced it had agreed with the vendor's agents, Carter Jonas, to buy Snowdon for over £3 million. The Trust was given 100 days to raise the money. The appeal got off to a roaring start when Sir Anthony Hopkins, the Welsh-born actor of "Hannibal Lecter" fame, donated £1m to the cause.

In a bizarre coincidence, the

managing director of the Snowdon Mountain Railway is also called Anthony Hopkins. Obviously it is a popular name in Wales. Perhaps that's why the railway man prefers to be addressed as "Tony" Hopkins.

Mr Leech's railway, the only rack-and-pinion railway in the UK, runs from Llanberis in north Wales, 3,483ft above sea level, to the summit station on Snowdon, 3,488ft above sea level, which is also the highest railway station in the UK.

In another coincidence, Mr Leech learnt mountaineering on Snowdon in his youth, and he

became an instructor there at £10 a week plus board. He definitely couldn't afford to use the railway then, he says.

Speaking after the railway deal was clinched, Mr Leech said: "Although it is too early to discuss details, I intend to upgrade the existing facilities, but anything I do will be in keeping with the beauty and drama of the site."

"I believe that what I have done at Land's End and my plans for John O'Groats will be a reassurance to anyone concerned about the railway - whatever their point of interest, either economic or environmental - that I shall be a sensitive caretaker of this national institution."

Now it seems that the Trust and the entrepreneur are warming to each other. Peter Broomhead, director of the National Trust in Wales, has been in touch with Mr Leech to talk about how they are going to get on as "new neighbours".

"MILLENNIUM BUG to Fire Bug" is the catchy title of an upcoming one-day conference arranged by Post Magazine on the threat of arson posed by the 2000 bug.

The insurance weekly's conference on 12 October will discuss the fear that "many businesses will fail to tackle the millennium bug adequately and will see torching their business and submitting an insurance claim as a soft option."

It's not quite as far fetched as it sounds. According to the Arson Prevention Bureau, over 240 fires are started deliberately in the UK each day.

THE BAR COUNCIL is fed up with attacks on the profession, especially recent accusations that leading silks had over-claimed on Legal Aid. The Bar Council has responded by appointing Shandwick, the City public relations firm, to portray the bewigged ones in a more favourable light. If they can do that, then never will a professional fee be more deserved.

MISYS, which develops and sells computer systems, is a comparatively young company floated in 1987 and this year became the only IT stock to enter the FTSE. The company is now looking for its first-ever corporate spin doctor. The job will pay a cool £100,000, so get your CV in now.

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17 August 1998

The world will be one big tax haven

IT IS AN overworked cliché to say that business is becoming increasingly global these days. There is nothing particularly new about this. Some businesses have always been global - shipping was a big global business a century ago. Some can never be because we all spend a lot on services - haircuts, housing, restaurant meals, taxis - that can only be provided locally. But in between there are some interesting industries that clearly are becoming more global. The most important of these is probably financial services. And as financial services have become a global industry, tax has become a global issue.

For a large part of the post-war period, people's savings were invested mainly, if not entirely, in their own country. What kept the money at home was exchange controls. As soon as these were abolished, and fund managers were free to seek the highest returns in whatever far-flung location took their fancy, they proved more than willing to do so.

International capital flows have grown to enormous proportions because capital - especially financial capital - is incredibly mobile. It can move across national boundaries in a split second and at very low cost. It will move quickly, anywhere in the globe, to find the highest returns.



BILL ROBINSON

Tax has become a global issue. Powerful forces are driving rates on savings down towards zero.

This brings us to the issue of tax because what interests the provider of capital is the post-tax return. In a world of highly mobile global savings, the jurisdiction with the lowest tax rate is an attractive place to be.

By cutting tax rates on savings, a country can attract more than its share of world savings. Lower tax rates thus lead to higher tax revenue - until competing

jurisdictions react by cutting their own rates.

Hoping to get an unfair share of the world supply of savings by cutting tax rates on savings is a bit like standing up at an all-seater football match. You'll get a good view for a while, but if you persist eventually everybody else stands up and all are worse off - same view, aching feet.

Tax competition between jurisdictions has been driving down tax rates on capital around the world from the early 1980s. The two most important taxes on the returns to capital are corporation tax, which taxes profits, and the income tax which bears on dividends and interest.

International organisations, such as the European Commission and the OECD, worry about the loss of revenue from these taxes because the lower the taxes on capital income, the higher the taxes have to be on employment and consumption.

This concern of the EU and the OECD reflects a very respectable strand in tax thinking: it is better to tax many things lightly than a few things heavily owing to the distortion to economic activity being less. This laudable concern for tax neutrality also fits in very well with the natural desire of finance ministries around the world to get in revenue from every possible source. So it is not at all

surprising that the OECD has, with their blessing, launched an inquiry into "harmful tax competition" and is looking particularly closely at the so-called tax havens.

There is no official definition of a tax haven, though the large accounting firms produce lists of countries which have two key characteristics: low rates of tax on residents and a willingness to pay dividends and interest to non-residents free of tax. Nothing wrong with that. It is incumbent on the non-resident to declare the income from another jurisdiction in his or her own jurisdiction - and there are many large and respectable countries that do not apply withholding taxes to non-residents. If you want to avoid tax by getting paid interest gross and not declaring the income, you can achieve this result as easily by opening a bank account in Germany as in Guernsey.

Global industries, like financial services, which do not have to be close to their customers, find it very attractive to locate themselves in these low-tax jurisdictions, and finance ministries in other jurisdictions are becoming increasingly concerned about the resulting revenue loss.

However it must be said that the official word is somewhat schizophrenic on

this issue. For there is another respectable strand of tax theory which says the returns on savings (out of income which has already been taxed) should not be taxed at all. That line of thinking has long governed the tax treatment of pensions. More recently, we have witnessed the invention of new savings instruments such as PEPs and TESSAs, which offer tax-exempt savings opportunities.

So it is far from clear that the authorities, who have been busy inventing tax havens inside their own jurisdiction, are in a strong position to attack the tax havens in other jurisdictions. The really interesting question to ask about any tax jurisdiction is whether it is engaging in fair or unfair competition. Low tax rates do not constitute unfair competition. Helping people in other jurisdictions to evade tax, or outright money laundering, does.

Do the Channel Islands, for example, engage in unfair competition? Certainly their tax rates are much lower than in the UK, but this is because public spending takes a much lower share of GDE. There are three main reasons for this: the islanders have run their affairs extremely prudently in the past, so that taxpayers are not lumbered, as they are in the UK, with a debt interest burden. Secondly,

pensions are all fully funded and the islanders enjoy full employment, so there is no need for a huge social security budget. And thirdly, because the islanders shelter under the UK defences, there is no defence burden on the taxpayer.

For all these eminently respectable reasons, the Channel Islands have been able to impose low rates of tax. As a result they have attracted a large financial services industry to their shores. But in the process they have also attracted the attentions of those intent upon evading tax in their own jurisdiction. That is why the islands are perceived, potentially to their detriment, as centres of tax evasion rather than successful low-tax economies in the Hong Kong or Singapore mould.

Where will the OECD inquiry lead? It is far too early to say, but the global forces driving taxes on savings down towards zero are extremely powerful. In the future there will be no tax havens because the world will be one big tax haven for the saver. The other side of the coin is that we will all have to get used to higher taxes on labour and consumption - or find some way of getting our levels of spending down. The islanders have shown us it can be done.

Bill Robinson is a director of the consultancy London Economics

Stress and strain savage the tiddlers

FOOTIE'S DRAMATIC decline from the 6,179 points peak achieved only four weeks ago has tended to overshadow the blood and tears shed on the stock market's undercard.

The small cap index also reached a high this year. The happy event occurred in May. Since then it has been all downhill. Last week it was teetering uncomfortably close to its lowest level of the year, hit on the opening day.

Indeed, even when the market was attempting to throw off its cares on Friday, the small cap index spent much of the day in the red. It ended the week at 2,333.4, just 13.2 above the low point and far removed from its happy 2,792.7 peak.

Composition of the index is set each December. Last year the capitalisation cut-off point was fixed at £65m. Such has been the devastation that around 60 of the current constituents have market values below the minimum with, for example, The Rack now worth £20m.

It could be argued that the rest of the shares in the outer reaches of the market have suffered even more savagely, as measured by the fledgling share index, they have been in decline since 1994. In that year this index, which embraces nearly all the tiddlers, peaked at 1,778.3. It did hit 1,517.11 this year and is currently around 1,270.

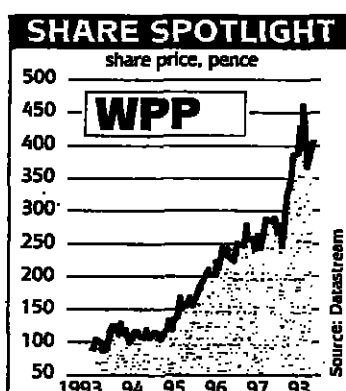
STOCK MARKET WEEK



DEREK PAIN

Why is the undercard so out of favour? The hoary old explanation put forward is a lack of liquidity. Market-makers do not carry enough shares on their books, and are unwilling to trade in big blocks because they are likely to be stuck with them and bang prices at the first sign of a seller. The spreads offered between buying and selling prices are often exceedingly wide. So, runs the argument, the little 'uns are inevitably savaged in times of stress and strain.

There should, therefore, be a contrary reaction when buyers are around. To some extent there is and gains are often exaggerated. But the liquidity problem, which is not new, is not the only negative influence in this year's rout. Such has been the impact of the



strong pound that many currency-sensitive stocks, such as engineers, have for long been neglected by the market. Consequently their capitalisations have fallen and unfashionable metal-bashers and the like have been relegated down the domestic league of indices run by FTSE International.

Nowadays much of Britain's traditional industrial heartland is gathered outside Footsie.

For example Crédit Suisse First Boston calculates that engineers now represent only 2.6 per cent of Footsie against 6.74 per cent of the mid cap and 6.41 per cent of the small cap. The fledgling contribution is 4.87 per cent.

In contrast high street banks, until recently the market high-flyers, make up 18.78 per cent of

Footsie: 1.06 per cent of the mid cap; 2.3 per cent of the small cap and 3.05 per cent of the fledgling. Computers are probably the only area where the smaller indices score.

Friday's much needed rally by the top 350 shares - Footsie and the mid cap constituents - was largely technical and had an air of unreality about it. The end of the dog days of the August retreat - or merely a dead cat bounce?

Certainly a number of influential strategists view the summertime blues as a correction rather than the start of a bear market.

Neil Williams and Jeffrey M Weingarten at Goldman Sachs say: "We believe the current equity market correction is more likely to be a short, sharp correction similar to what we saw last October rather than the start of a bear market."

Bob Semple and David McBain

at BT Alex Brown do not expect shares to suddenly regain lost ground. With a cut in interest rates some way off and profit downgrades to be coped with, investors face a rough ride. But they say: "Investors should now start to buy the UK into the current market fragility..."

Richard Jeffrey at Charterhouse Tilney is looking for a further 5 per cent Footsie fall.

Rentokil Initial, the environmental and security group, tops the week's results schedule with its interim performance. It should achieve chairman Sir Clive Thompson's 20 per cent growth target - a self-inflicted burden he must now regret.

BT Alex Brown expect profits of £233m against £198.9m. But analysts Paul Morland and Andrew Nussey fret about the second half year when the magic 20 per cent may prove elusive.

The company needs another

major acquisition. It succeeded in wringing much better than expected returns out of its last victim, the BET cleaning group. Compas is the market's favoured Rentokil target and it is known Sir Clive has thought about a bid for the contract caterer.

Without a takeover, Rentokil's proud 20 per cent growth record is in danger. In any case any deal would probably come too late to have much impact on this year's figures and with margins under pressure it is likely Sir Clive will lose his 20 per cent tag when he presents the full year's results in March.

WPP, the advertising group once teetering on the brink of oblivion, should score a near 20 per cent interim advance to £33.4m, says Merrill Lynch. Analyst David Chermont is shooting for £207.4m for the year and reckons the group should hit £270.1m in 2000.

IN BRIEF

Rolls-Royce wins \$400m order

ROLLS-ROYCE, the aero engine maker, is today expected to announce that it has won a \$400m order from American Airlines, the US carrier forging an alliance with British Airways. The contract, for Trent 800 engines which will power Boeing 777 aircraft, will bring Rolls' order book up to £10bn.

No Selfridges bid

SELFRIDGES has not received a formal bid, sources close to the company said yesterday, as speculation increased that the Oxford Street retailer was about to become the subject of a takeover attempt. Galen Weston, the Irish businessman, is reported to be preparing an offer worth more than £400m.

Personal bug risk

BRITISH BUSINESS still has to find £1bn-£2bn to tackle the millennium bug in employees' personal computers, according to research by Logica, the computer services group. The problem stems from spreadsheets and databases which were created using non-compliant software, and which are often still in use. Although companies have spent billions stamping out the bug in corporate databases, personal computers have been overlooked.

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SPORT

European Athletics Championships: Britain's hope generously helped by World and Olympic champion

Backley aims at unique treble

By Mike Rowbottom

AS STEVE BACKLEY seeks to win a third successive European javelin title in Budapest this week, his mind may stray back to the circumstances of his last victory in this event, at Helsinki.

Defeating a field which contained every top thrower - including Jan Zelezny, the Olympic champion, and Finland's local hero Seppo Rätty - prompted Backley to develop a spontaneous new technique.

It did not involve throwing, but celebrating. After Rätty's last throw of the competition fell short of Backley's effort the Briton's first reaction was relatively sedate.

He smiled, blew out his cheeks and shook the hand of his training partner, Terry McHugh. But the manic appearance on the boundary wall of John Trower, the man who had coached, cajoled and occasionally conned Backley into a succession of champion performances suddenly seemed to define the moment for him.

Javelin throwers are not usually able or accustomed to doing laps of honour - too much else is usually occurring around them. But Backley, his enthusiasm overflowing, started to progress down the infield, side-stepping and waving in a movement that was half-way between jubilation and aerobics. It was ungainly. And glorious.

Perhaps Backley will devise a new victory salute in the Nag stadium on Sunday. Certainly his form this year makes it highly likely that he might need to. Backley has already recorded 89.89 metres this summer, his best for six years and a distance which takes him to Friday's qualifying round as the European with the second furthest throw so far this season.

The only man who stands above him in the rankings is Aki Parviainen, a 23-year-old Finn who has thrown 90.88.

Backley, who will be 30 next February, could be forgiven a certain nervousness about this relatively newcomer given his experience at last year's world championships in Athens.

Approaching that event unencumbered by injury - a relatively rare state of affairs for him in the last six years - the Olympic and world silver medalist appeared to have within his reach the first global title he so desperately craved.

Then Marius Corbett, a 21-year-old South African, intervened with an unexpected African record of 88.40 which forced Backley to accept second place again.

Parviainen clearly has the potential to do the same this time, although his championship record at senior level has been as yet unremarkable.

Backley, however, will also be keeping a wary eye on Germany's Boris Henry, only half a metre behind him this year, and Konstantinos Gatsioudis, of

Greece, whom the Briton identified as a potential danger before last year's championships in Athens. On that occasion, however, Backley backed the wrong dark horse.

But he has more reason to be confident this year given the consistency of his form. Part of the reason for his current buoyancy lies in the groundwork he has laid during the winter in tandem with the man who has been the event's predominant figure in recent years - Zelezny.

Earlier this year, the Czech athlete, now 32, injured his right shoulder so badly that fears were expressed over his career, and he was forced to rule himself out of competition for at least 12 months. However, the former army colonel and his coach, Jan Pospisil, have left open their invitation for Backley and Trower to visit their training group near Prague, an offer which has been readily taken up.

This week both men have flown out to Prague again, accompanied by fellow countryman Mark Roberson and Mick Hill, as part of their final preparations.

This is just the latest manifestation of the approach Backley has been obliged to develop over the years as he has picked up the injuries which are the lot of every exponent in this wrenchingly demanding event, namely: adapt and survive.

Since 1992 he has had injuries to his shoulder, groin, elbow and feet. He has fought back with the help of a number of people, including the South African, Dr Ron Holder, who corrected a damaging imbalance in his posture by building up the insole of one of his shoes with minutely calculated layers of Yellow Pages. It sounded bizarre. It was bizarre. But it got Backley moving in the right direction again.

His ultimate defence, however, has been his own courage and mental toughness which he demonstrated to staggering effect when he won the Olympic silver medal two years ago just a month after he had been on crutches following an operation on a ruptured Achilles tendon.

Thus Backley goes into his third European Championships with the world and Olympic champion effectively in his corner. Success would set him up for a unique achievement, that of being both European and Commonwealth champion three times running.

Victory in Budapest this Sunday, and subsequent triumph in Kuala Lumpur next month - when Corbett is due to compete - would establish Backley's credentials as the world's leading thrower in the continued absence of Zelezny. It would be a highly respectable way for him to move towards what he still regards as his ultimate goal - the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

But Smith, made men's captain after Roger Black retired, believes the team should have a wider focus. After all, there's



Steve Backley has had a succession of injuries over the years but some unorthodox treatments seem to have restored him

Reuters

Smith plots Britain's golden future

STEVE SMITH, the new team captain, yesterday injected a dose of realism as Britain's athletes prepared to launch a gold medal charge at this week's European Championships in Budapest.

The team could win around 10 titles in the championships which begin in the Hungarian capital tomorrow.

But Smith, made men's captain after Roger Black retired, believes the team should have a wider focus. After all, there's

next year's World Championships and then the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, and he is hopeful that the Europeans Championships will be a springboard to global success.

"There is every reason to think we can win a lot of golds," said Smith, the high jumper who will be the first non-performing captain following a neck injury in training that will rule him out until next year.

"But the important thing to remember is that winning or

getting to the final of the European Championships is not the same as making it to the final at the Worlds or Olympics.

"Everybody should be using the Europeans as part of the build-up to Sydney because the 2000 Olympics are what it is going to be all about."

But a bagful of golds at the Nag Stadium would be a good starting point for a team that failed to win a title at the 1996 Olympics and last year's World Championships.

As well as Steve Backley in the javelin, Colin Jackson will be chasing a hat-trick of successes in the 110m hurdles.

Jackson has clocked 10 of the 11 fastest times by a European this summer, but the world record holder could be pushed by rising German, Falk Balzer.

The triple jumper Jonathan Edwards should return to the victory podium for the first time in a major event since 1995.

Mark Richardson will start favourite to beat his team-mate

Iwan Thomas and maintain Britain's tradition in the 400m, while Solomon Wariso will be under pressure to complete a clean sweep of the medals.

The women's team has been depleted by the absence of the middle-distance runner Kelly Holmes and yesterday's withdrawal of the world indoor triple jump record holder, Ashia Hansen, through injury.

In the heptathlon Denise Lewis could finally take the next step on to the winners' podium.

Results, Digest, page 17

Ready Teddy comfort for Tait

EQUESTRIANISM

By Genevieve Murphy at Gatcombe Park

BLXTH TAIT and Ready Teddy, with whom he won the individual Olympic gold medal in 1996, gave a sparkling performance to win the Doubleprint British Open Championship here yesterday. The New Zealander defeated Karen Dixon (who took the national title having gained the best British score on Too Smart) with last year's Australian winner, Andrew Hoy, in third place on Buckley Province.

Tait regards Ready Teddy as a great little horse - "If I had to choose only one to ride, I'd choose him every time" - but the 10-year-old has not been without his problems. Last year he began running away towards the end of the Gatcombe course. This year at Badminton he had a fall at The Bank when in with a winning chance.

"I pushed him at the beginning of the course here last year and got him rattled," Tait said yesterday after gaining his first British Open title. "This time I let him bowl along at his own pace." It turned out to be a smart pace since Ready Teddy recorded the fastest time. The second fastest was another of Tait's mounts, Chesterfield, who finished in fifth place.

Dixon, who has been on three British Olympic teams and was the winner of this contest with Too Smart in 1994, has been making a brave comeback after breaking her leg almost a year ago. "When I started riding again in February, I came down to Gatcombe to get some help from Mark Phillips. He got me going again," Dixon said.

Too Smart's next outing will be at Henbury Hall in Cheshire the weekend after next, when Dixon will be among the short-listed British riders taking part in the final trial for the World Equestrian Games to be held in Italy in October. The Great Britain team will be defending their world title which was won in The Hague four years ago when Dixon was part of the winning quartet.

Pippa Nolan, winner of the British Open here in 1992, had been leading after the dressage and show jumping on Rainbow Magic. She was, therefore, last to go on the cross-country which, as always, was run in the reverse order of merit.

Nolan's chance of a repeat victory disappeared half way round the 32-fence course when Rainbow Magic had a less than fluent jump over the first of three parts in the Courts Complex. Wisely opting for a longer route there on the nine-year-old, Nolan collected some extra time penalties as a result. But she must have been pleased to complete a clear round for fourth place.

Those assessing form in the run-up to the World Games will have noted the fine performance of Tait's intended partner, Ready Teddy. Hoy, who has won two Olympic team gold medals for Australia, also looks to have the right horse-power in last year's Bramham winner, Swizzle In, his winning partner in the first advanced section here on Saturday.

David O'Connor, of the United States, and his wife, Karen, filled the top two places in the second advanced section yesterday.

Results, Digest, page 17

Scratching the surface of discrimination

Forbidden Fairways: African Americans and the Game of Golf (Sleeping Bear Press, \$24.95) By Calvin H. Simmette

WHEN TIGER WOODS won the US Masters last year, the roof of the Augusta National clubhouse almost blew off. "I've never seen as much excitement as we had in the clubhouse," said the then chairman, Jackson Stephens. "When he made the putt on 18, the clubhouse exploded."

Woods had set records galore, but not lost among all the statistics was the fact that Woods was the first black player to win the event. His victory came 32 years after Lee

BOOK OF THE WEEK

Elder became the first black golfer to play in the Masters and seven years after Augusta admitted their first black member.

"That's why this victory is even more special," Woods, who later described himself as a "Caucasian" to represent his mix of cultures, said. "Seeing Lee Elder before I played meant a lot. I looked up to him and Charlie Sifford and because of them I am able to live my dream."

Little over a generation before, Woods would not have been able to

do so. When Sifford was leading the Canadian Open after two rounds in 1962, officials from Augusta sent word that that year's winner of the event would not be invited to the following year's Masters. Clifford Roberts, the long-serving chairman, once said that "a black man would never play at Augusta as long as he had something to do with it and that the only way a black man was going to get on Augusta was as a caddy or a clubhouse porter."

None of this is addressed in Calvin Simmette's book *Forbidden Fairways*. The background to the removal of the infamous "Caucasian rule" in the PGA's statutes in 1961 is covered, however sketchily. Tour-

naments were redesignated "Open Invitations" to prevent players such as Bill Spiller, Ted Rhodes and Sifford from being able to play.

At the San Diego Open in 1962, Joe Louis, the former world heavyweight champion, was allowed to play, but other black players were not. From then on, non-FGA members were allowed to play in tournaments if they received a sponsor's invitation. At the next event in Phoenix, Louis, Rhodes, Sifford and Earl Clark were sent out in the first group of the qualifying round and on the first green "were greeted by the revolting sight and smell of human excrement that someone had surreptitiously placed in the cup."

This is far from the definitive record of an interesting and important subject in a sport which cherishes honour and integrity but has a history of appalling discrimination, whether racial, sexual or ageist. But Simmette does provide a gentle ramble through the lives of some golfers whose fame would be greater but for the colour of their skin.

Among those recounted are John Shippen, who might have won the second US Open in 1896 but for an 11 at the 13th hole when he was leading in the final round, and George Grant, who invented and patented the first wooden tee in 1899, but failed to exploit the idea commercially.

Andy Parrell

THIS WEEK'S TOP TEN SPORTS BOOKS

- 1 *Rothmans Football Yearbook 1998-99* Edited by Glenda Rollin (Headline, paperback, £17.99)
- 2 *News of the World Football Annual 1998-99* Edited by Eric Brown (Invisible Press, £5.99)
- 3 *Playfair Football Annual 1998-99* Edited by Glenda Rollin (Headline, paperback, £4.95)
- 4 *Left Foot in the Grave* By Garry Nelson (Collins Willow, paperback, £6.99)
- 5 *Postcards From the Beach* By Phil Tunell (Collins Willow, paperback, £6.99)
- 6 *Only a Game?* By Eamon Dunphy (Penguin, paperback, £5.99)
- 7 *Playfair Football Who's Who 1999* Edited by Jack Rollin (Headline, paperback, £6.99)
- 8 *1998-99 Official PFA Footballers Factfile* Edited by Barry Hugman (Queen Anne Press, paperback, £12.99)
- 9 *Rough Ride - Behind the Wheel with a Pro Cyclist* By Paul Kimmage (Yellow Jersey, paperback, £8.00)
- 10 *Spread Betting* By Andrew Burke (Rowton Press, paperback, £8.95)

Chart compiled by Sportspages, 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London W1D 3AQ 9604 and St Ann's Square, Manchester M16 8JN 0161 832 8330 www.sportspages.co.uk

Monty's head on another block

GOLF
BY ANDY FARRELL
in Seattle

COLIN MONTGOMERIE has often remarked that there is only one thing worse than constantly being mentioned as a player who is expected to win a major championship—and that is not being expected to win a major. At least that comes without the constant scrutiny that dogs not only Monty but Phil Mickelson, too.

Both saw any hope that they might change their status in the game before leaving Sahalee disappear in the third round of the 80th USPGA Championship yesterday. Mickelson, starting the day at level par, shot a 78. Monty, who was one behind the half-way leader, Vijay Singh, shot a 77 to fall to four over par. The Scot went into yesterday's final round 11 strokes behind Singh and Steve Stricker.

He fell a further shot behind after finding a green-side bunker at the first. When he missed his par-saving putt from eight feet, the Monty visaged crumpled in resignation. Further bogeys did not improve the mood. He found the trees off the tee at the third and was over the green at the fourth, but got up and down from a bunker for par at the sixth. Another drop shot at the eighth hole put Monty out in 39, four over par, before he finally got into his stride by birdieing the 10th and the par-five 11th.

A birdie at the second on Saturday had actually put Monty into the lead. But his championship then started to unravel. The erratic nature of his long game, overcome by a sparky putter on the first two days, began to show up the European No 1 on a course with no room for error.

This time his putter could not save him either. Monty suffered double-bogeys at the eighth and 18th in contrast to Tiger Woods. The world No 1 looked to be having a stinker early in his round but forged a level-par 70 to leave himself

lurking in the pack chasing the leaders, which also included the defending champion, Davis Love, the 1995 winner, Steve Elkington, and the Masters and Open champion, Mark O'Meara.

Monty thought long and hard after missing the cut at the Open. "I'm not there on Saturdays enough," he said after embarking on extensive preparations for Sahalee. He decided to see a putting specialist and to work harder on the range.

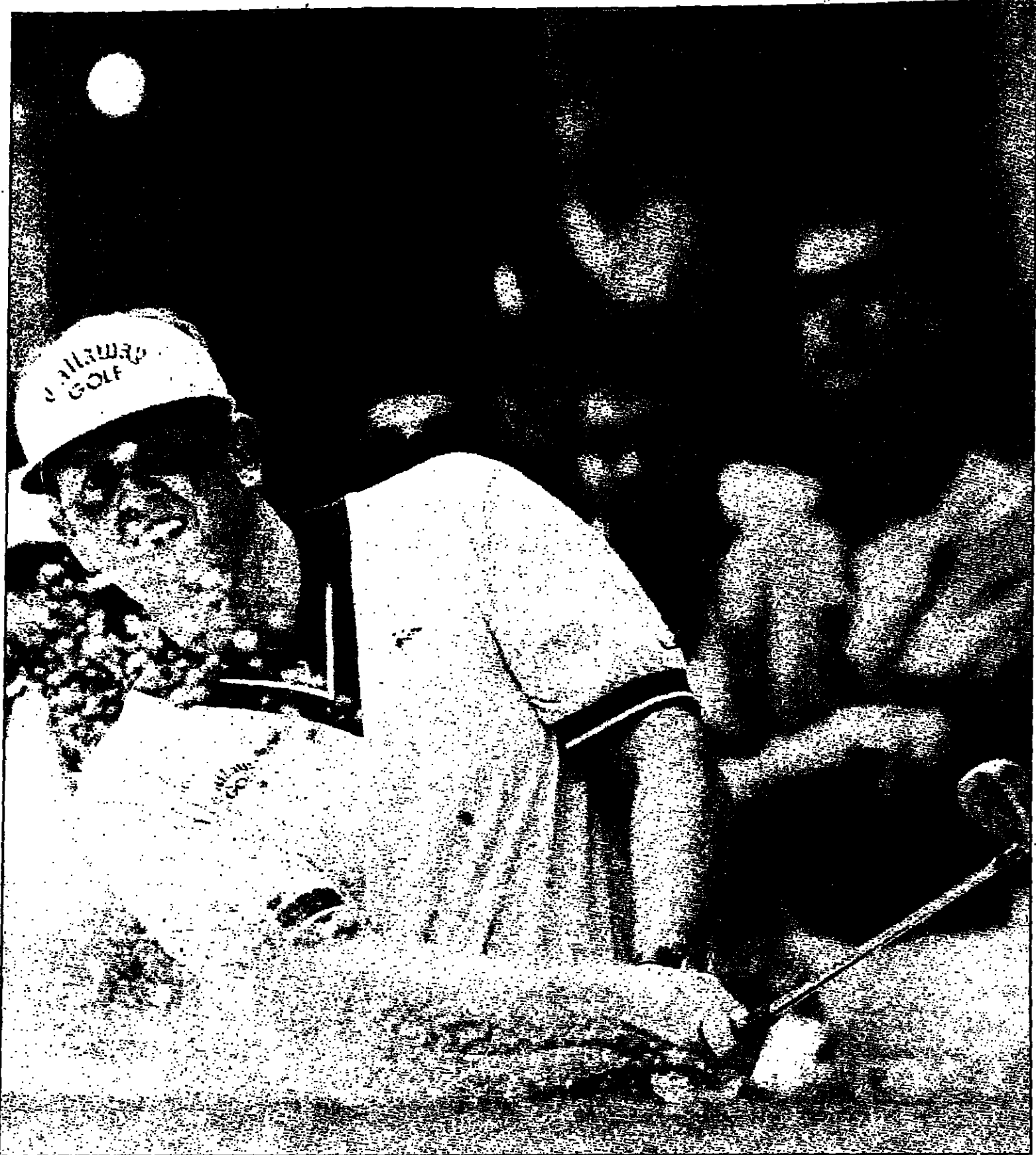
All season, Monty has convinced himself that his putting has not been up to the mark. Seeing Dave Pelz, who also worked with Ian Woosnam in Seattle, gave him a more positive attitude on the greens.

But what Monty has chosen to ignore is that he may be missing more putts because his birdie chances are further from the hole and he has needed to get up and down more often. His long game has not been as consistent as in the past. The simple action that had never been tampered with meant he hit every shot straight with the hint of a fade.

Now, however, he is either hooking the ball or blocking it right. This may be a consequence of work a couple of years ago with his old teacher, Bill Ferguson. At that point they tried to give Monty the option of drawing the ball to give him a better chance at Augusta. Ironically, his best finish at a major this season came when he was eighth at the Masters.

Ferguson, who taught the young Monty to play at Ilkley Golf Club in Yorkshire, was fired at the end of 1996. Last year Denis Pugh was his advisor, but the Scot ended the relationship because he was unhappy about getting too technical.

Pugh would probably agree his work was only half finished. He has suggested he made Monty's best better but his worst worse, and that there is a small flaw in his game that most weeks on the regular tour is not a problem but which is exposed at times of great pressure.



Colin Montgomerie plays out of trouble but not into contention for the lead of the USPGA at Sahalee

Sherrie grabs a sweet victory

BY TIM GLOVER
at Royal Lytham and St Anne's

WITH IMPECCABLE timing, Sherrie Steinhauer won the Weetabix British Women's Open striking a glorious blow at the ultimate hole. The 35-year-old from Madison, Wisconsin, who began the tournament with an 81, finished with a best-of-the-day 69 to win the £100,000 first prize.

Steinhauer, whose only other notable victory came in the Du Maurier classic six years ago, began the day four strokes behind the leader Janice Moodie and ended it two ahead of the Scot who closed with a 75, three over par for the day, six over for the championship.

Moodie had seen off the challenge of her playing partner, the 43-year-old Betsy King but was caught and then overtaken not only by Sherrie but also Brandie and Sophie.

In her rookie year, Moodie, who is ineligible for the Solheim Cup Match between Europe and US at Muirfield Village, Ohio, next month because she has not played a sufficient number of tournaments in Europe, won £30,000 for fourth place, but a lack of conviction on the greens cost her dearly.

She seemed set to enjoy the Weetabix with milk and honey when she birdied the eighth and the 12th to leave the field trailing behind her blonde pony-tail but bogeys at the 14th and 16th allowed Steinhauer, Brandie Burton and the Swede Sophie Gustafson to move to the top of the leader board.

After playing an excellent chip at the 14th to within two and half feet of the flag, Moodie missed the putt for par and she also missed from five feet for a birdie at the 15th. "The wind made things really, really tough," Moodie, who learnt her golf at Windyhill, Glasgow, said.

Steinhauer, meanwhile, led a charmed life, particularly over Royal Lytham's formidable backlinks. Beginning the round with a bogey four at the first, her only dropped shot, she went to the turn in 35 and came home in regal style with birdies at the 11th, 13th and 18th. With a south-westerly gusting at up to 35 mph, it was an impressive performance. She was the only player to break 77 in the final round on a day when many had trouble breaking 88.

With Gustafson in the clubhouse at five over for the tournament following a 70, the decisive stroke from Steinhauer came at the last. With the odds on a sudden death play-off she hit a magnificent six-iron approach shot from 156 yards into a cross-wind to within eight feet of the hole and her birdied putt just had enough momentum to roll into the cup when it looked, for a moment, as if she had left it on the lip.

After her 81 on Thursday, Steinhauer improved with a 73 and a 70. "After the first round I had a dream that I was getting an early flight home," she said. "My first aim was to make the cut, then finish in the top 10. I really enjoyed playing in the wind. It's a challenge and it helped me to stay focused."

Gustafson, who won £50,000 to considerably improve her chances of playing in the Solheim Cup, was paired with Australian Carrie Webb. When Webb, who won the championship 12 months ago at Sunningdale at 19 under par, strokes better than Steinhauer's aggregate yesterday, went to the turn in 33 it looked as if she might retain her title. But it was Gustafson who made the advance with three birdies in four holes from the 13th.

She was subsequently joined at five over by Burton who came in with a 71, but both were trumped by Steinhauer's beautiful judged six-iron at the 22nd hole. It was the perfect club at the perfect time.

One of the more interesting scores was an 87 from Muffin Spencer-Devlin. She came home in 46 after a triple-bogey seven at the 16th and a quintuple bogey nine on the 17th. The American finished with an aggregate of 319, 31 over par.

Nor did Se Ri Pak cover herself in glory. "You have to learn many things to play in many temperatures," the 20-year-old Korean, who has won two major titles this season said. "I learned many things, this is golf. It's up and down." Yesterday she had trouble all over, closing with a 77, 20 over par for the tournament.

COMPLETE THIRD-ROUND SCORES

203 S Stricker 69 68 66 V Singh (Fiji) 70 66 67	207 B Mayfair 73 67 67 D Love 70 68 69 SELDON (Aus) 69 69 69	208 M O'Meara 69 70 69 S Hendel 72 68 68 F Luckner 68 71 69 T Woods 66 72 70	209 R Allardyce (Aus) 72 68 69 J Cook 71 68 70 J Huson 70 71 68 G Kraft 71 73 65 S Gump 68 69 72	210 R Cochran 69 71 70 A Magee 70 68 72 L Rinker 70 70 71	214 S Leamy (Aus) 72 70 72 C Franco (Par) 71 70 73 C Spiller 69 74 71 PH Morgan 71 71 72	215 D Waldorf 74 70 70 PJ Johnson (Swe) 69 74 71 P Adger 68 73 70 N Price (Zim) 70 73 68 S Fleesh 75 69 67	212 P Goydos 70 70 72 H Sutton 72 68 72 F Funk 70 71 71 T Luthman 71 71 70 P Couper 74 71 67 Woodman (GB) 70 75 67 B Tway 69 76 67 B Faxon 70 68 74	213 B Andrade 68 72 66 S Verplank 71 71 71 B Estes 68 76 69	216 J Carter 71 73 72 N Faldio (GB) 73 71 72 D Ogryn 73 72 71 K Sutherland 74 71 71	217 T Byrum 72 71 74 J Durant 75 68 74 J Sindelar 71 71 75 L Roberts 72 71 74	218 M Calacawech 70 73 71 J Stamat 71 73 70 D Marc 70 75 69 G Day 68 71 74 C Montgomerie (GB) 70 67 77	219 P Middleton 70 70 78 J Haas 72 73 73 S Maruyama (Japan) 68 77 B Fabel 73 72 73	219 R Karlsson (Sweden) 71 73 75 J Ozaki 73 71 75 T Doodds (Nem) 69 75 75 C J Perry 73 71 75 C Parry (Aus) 70 75 74	220 T Tryba 70 74 76 A Collett (GB) 70 75 75	222 G Gelberger 73 70 79 T Herron 73 70 79 D Sutherland 77 68 77
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Humphreys 'ready to quit' over WRU threat

RUGBY UNION
BY DAVID SMART

THE FORMER Wales captain Jonathan Humphreys yesterday threatened to quit rugby if he was forced to move from Cardiff by the Welsh Rugby Union because of a long-running dispute between his club and the governing body.

The Cardiff hooker looks set to be caught up in a club versus country row if Cardiff do not sign a loyalty agreement by midday today.

The WRU could strip Cardiff of their Welsh international like Humphreys and the present Wales captain, Rob Howley, if the agreement is not signed. Wales' leading international is contracted to the WRU and they have threatened to place the players with other Welsh clubs.

"If the WRU told me I had to

join another club, I would retire," said Humphreys, the Cardiff captain.

"Cardiff is my club, the only one I want to play for. I would not consider going anywhere else."

"I hope it does not come to that. The players have been caught in the middle for too long and it is time that the administrators sorted things out."

Humphreys claimed many of Wales' leading players were supporting moves to play the best clubs in England in a British league, a plan which collapsed last week after talks between Brian Baister, the chairman of the Rugby Football Union, and representatives of the other governing bodies in the British Isles.

The groups failed to reach an agreement and the idea fell through, leading to the English clubs accusing Vernon Pugh, the chairman of the Interna-

tional Rugby Board, of having an influence behind the scenes in pouring cold water on the plans, even though he was in Argentina at the time.

New Welsh players, many of whom have expressed regret at the standards and competitiveness of their own domestic competitions, are speaking out in favour of the cross-border plan.

"We are very disappointed that there will not be a British League this season," said Humphreys.

"The Welsh club scene desperately needed it. We are told such a league will be organised next year, but how do we know that? The World Cup is taking place then and it may be put off for another year."

"Welsh rugby does not have the time to waste anymore. The top sides need to be playing quality rugby week-in, week-out and unfortunately the



Humphreys: 'Wants to play'

Welsh system does not provide that.

"As players we will do as our clubs direct. We want to play but we won't be used as pawns."

Cardiff themselves are still in a state of limbo. They have said that they do not wish to play in Welsh domestic competitions any more because of their on-running dispute with the Union, but their plans to play against Allied Dunbar clubs have been thwarted by the RFU.

All Blacks flattened by furious Bok rally

NEW ZEALAND were on the receiving end of one of the more dramatic Test comebacks in recent times, allowing South Africa to stage a stirring comeback to win 24-33 in a gripping match in Durban on Saturday. It was the All Blacks' fourth successive defeat.

The result left the All Blacks with their worst record in more than 40 years as they finished their Tri Nations campaign bottom of the table. The home side, starting defeat in the face and trailing 22-5 with just 14 minutes left on the clock, scored three tries including a last-minute touchdown to steal the game and preserve their unbeaten record in the competition.

The Springboks now play Australia, in Johannesburg on Saturday, with the winner of that match taking the Tri Nations title for the first time.

The 51st Test between the two traditional rivals was, as ex-

pected, a game of hard, fierce rugby full of expansive play.

New Zealand went in at half-time 17-5 up and it looked like over-confidence and unforced errors would lead to the Springboks' downfall.

The Springboks' normally watertight defence started to spring leaks as they allowed the All Blacks to score two tries. In comparison, the radically restructured New Zealand side was getting much better than expected.

It was the mercurial scrum-half Joost van der Westhuizen who started the unlikely revival when he jinked his way over from a ruck 15 metres out, and, nine minutes from time, the replacement flanker Bobby Skinstad set up the finish with a try.

A late tackle by Jonah Lomu set up South Africa with an attacking line-out 10 metres from the line. The hooker James

Dalton crashed over the line in injury time to record the win.

The All Blacks captain, Taine Randell, said: "It was unbelievable how we lost it. The Springboks played with a lot of fortitude, a lot of character."

South Africa's Trias Verburg, Van der Westhuizen, Silindani, Dalton, Cornes, Steyn, Montgomery, 2. New Zealand: Smith, 64; Muller, Rossouw, Honiball, Van der Westhuizen, Kamepe, Dalton, Garvey (Le Roux, 52), Ota (Skinstad, 49), Andrews (Ota, 71), Erasmus (Alcock, 64), Venter, Leckmann (62).

NEW ZEALAND: Cullen; Wilson, Clarke (Berriman, 63); Mark Wiggins, Jansz, Lomu; Andrew Mearns, Justin Marshall; Royce Wille, Robin Brooke, Taine Randell, Carl Hester, Arnon Oliver, Ota Brown, Josh Kronfeld, Litoia Maki (Scott Robertson, 50).

Argentina trounced the US Eagles 52-24 in a World Cup qualifying match on Saturday. Earlier, Canada defeated Uruguay 39-15 in the four-team event in Buenos Aires that will qualify one side for the 1999 World Cup in Wales.

TODAY'S NUMBER

1.95bn
The amount in pounds sterling that the German weekly magazine, Focus, estimates a European football super league would generate if it got off the ground

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مكتبة الجليل

Joe 11:50

Sherrie
grabs a
sweet
victory

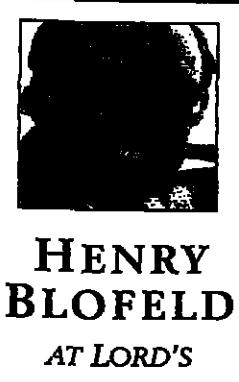
THE INDEPENDENT
Monday 17 August 1998

Hick flaw sparks another collapse

ALTHOUGH HIS innings won the match, Graeme Hick made a perfect mistake at Lord's when England looked as though they were going to reach 300 after they had been put in to bat. He and Alec Stewart had put on 76 for England's third wicket and then Nasser Hussain settled in and helped him add 92 for the fourth.

They were scoring runs as they wished and although the Sri Lankan bowlers had been honest they had been no better than that. Suddenly Hussain, who was batting with the authority and composure one would expect from a man who spent seven hours at the crease while making 94 in England's second innings in the fifth Test, swept at Kumar Dharmasena with his head up and was bowled.

England were 223-4 in the 44th over. It was now imperative that Hick should stay in to the end of the innings to prevent England having two new batsmen at the wicket for the slog overs at the end. If Hick had stayed England could reasonably have expected a total of at least 270. In the very next over, Adam Holoake glanced Sanath Jayasuriya to short fine leg and set off for a single



HENRY BLOFELD
AT LORD'S

which Hick could easily have countermanded. All he had to do was say no, loudly and quickly, and Holoake would have been able to get back safely enough.

As it happened, Hick responded to the call and was run out by Marvan Atapathu's throw to Romesh Kaluwitharana behind the stumps. It was such a thoughtless run by a batsman who has played enough one-day cricket to know what was required at this late stage of the innings.

As a result of Hick's willingness to risk his own wicket, two new batsmen were at the crease and as a result the innings disintegrated. In fact



Arjuna Ranatunga is bowled by Robert Croft as England head towards a convincing victory at Lord's yesterday

collectors of England collapses, and there must be many, can put this one high up in the order. Seven wickets had fallen for 24 runs off 35 balls.

The lower middle-order batsmen, as so often happens in this sort of situation, made

the grave mistake of trying to hit everything for four and got themselves out. They needed to push for ones and twos and with the far-flung field that would have been easy enough.

The pyjama saga went one stage further. The Sri Lankan

first names are on the backs of their shirts because their proper names are too big and, in order to fit, would have to be in very small print. The South Africans, who are the only side to have numbers on their clothes which they apparently

Spell of pace swings game

BY MIKE CAREY
at Headingley

Yorkshire 487-4 dec
Lancashire 484 & 109-4

AN EXPLOSIVE piece of new-ball bowling by the tall left-arm Paul Hogg, who took four wickets for two runs in 25 deliveries, dramatically changed the face of a hitherto high-scoring Roses match here yesterday.

Lancashire had been reduced to a decidedly edgy 27 for 4 when John Crawley and Warren Hegg gratefully accepted the umpire's offer of the light. This provided eight overs respite after which the fifth wicket pair batted enterprisingly to leave the match perfectly poised.

The famous Yorkshireman who opined that a week is a long time in politics might agree, were he still with us, that three days can be even more remarkable in cricket. Especially if you get stuck in the way Yorkshire did here.

First, having been lambasted all around Leeds on the first day, they carefully batted themselves back into contention, a performance which owed much not only to a disciplined all-round team effort, but also to some variable bowling on a pitch which, though showing signs of wear, held up pretty well.

Hutchinson has more raw pace than most bowlers of his type and this was the platform he needed. The crucial differences to the first innings were that this time he not only got his line right and hit the pitch hard, but the plentiful good balls found the edge and the catches stuck, some spectacularly.

He began with a perfectly pitched outswinger which the left handed Nathan Wood, committed to play edging to the wicketkeeper.

The luckless Neil Fairbrother could do nothing about the first ball he faced, which not only bounced on him, but turned him round and had him brilliantly caught at full stretch by James Mitchell at third slip.

Soon afterwards Andrew Flintoff, currently suffering the sort of lean spell that haunts all quality youngsters sooner or later, stabbed unconvincedly at a rapid delivery angled across him to be superbly caught by David Byas. And he was followed in the next over as Graham Lloyd played on.

Byas himself had been the cornerstone of Yorkshire's innings, becoming, somewhat improbably you may feel, the first batsman to make four centuries in one season on this famous ground.

His anchorman's role was the perfect foil for Darren Lehmann's strokeplay, but equally valuable work was done in the engine-room of the side where Richard Blakeley completed an unbeaten half-century and the two bowlers, Gavin Hamilton and Middlebrook, confirmed their rich promise as all-rounders.

Krikken is so happy with Dean Hampshire humble Essex

Derbyshire 280 & 168
Worcestershire 104 & 316
Derbyshire win by 28 runs

KARL KRIKKEN saluted emerging pace bowler Kevin Dean after the 22-year-old bowled Derbyshire to a fourth Championship victory that completed a memorable five days for the club.

Dean took nine wickets in the match as Derbyshire beat Worcestershire by 28 runs following their memorable NatWest Trophy semi-final victory at Leicester last week,

which was decided on the last ball.

The left-arm demonstrator is an opponent to be reckoned with as he claimed his 50th victim of the season - and Krikken believes he can only get better.

Krikken, Derbyshire's vice-captain and wicketkeeper, insisted: "Kevin has got a lot of bottle and he's great in pressure situations."

"He's always had important ingredients in his game. He can swing it both ways, he sticks close to the wicket and he

doesn't give the batsman a lot to play with.

He's growing into his strength now. He was very slim and willowy when he first came here but he's built up his strength doing a fair bit in the gym this winter.

"We are now seeing the benefit of that. He's hitting the gloves hard this year which shows he's gained an extra yard of pace and batsmen don't have the time to adjust."

"He's very honest, very committed and quite aggressive on the field considering how

quiet he is off the field."

Dean's five-wicket haul denied Worcestershire a victory that Vikram Solanki had almost singlehandedly set up with a career-best 170 from 188 balls.

He was dropped three times but the quality of his stroke-play was of the highest class and he was last out with his team just 28 runs away from reaching a daunting target of 345.

Solanki scored a Sunday League 100 at Derby last month and his captain, Tom Moody, knows that the right-hander

has an abundance of natural ability.

"It was a fantastic innings from Vikram. He obviously had his slice of luck along the way but we all need a bit of that," Moody said.

"He's got an enormous amount of talent and he's starting to show that more consistently this season."

Worcestershire have now lost four Championship games in a row and they must hope for injuries to clear up and Graeme Hick to return from England duty.

ESSEX SLUMPED to another heavy defeat in the Britannic Assurance County Championship yesterday. Hampshire became the latest club to take advantage of the bottom club's injuries with a victory by innings and 111 runs at Portsmouth.

The visitors began the third day in a seemingly hopeless position at 50 for 2, still needing another 299 to make Hampshire bat a second time. They lasted until an hour after lunch when they were dismissed for 238.

Peter Bowler compiled a patient 41 not out to lead his side to a two-wicket win over Northamptonshire at Taunton.

The Somerset captain hit just two fours in his 165-ball innings, but it was a fine effort on a dry pitch which offered plenty of assistance to the spinners.

Defeat was hard on the Northamptonshire off-spinner Jason Brown, who claimed a career-best 6 for 53 from 41.1 overs to finish with match-figures of 11 for 102.

Kevin Dean bowled Derbyshire to a 28-run win over Worcestershire with 5 for 95 to add to his four in the first innings.

With Worcestershire chasing 345 Vikram Solanki scored a career-best 170 off 188 balls to take his side within sight of what would have been a memorable victory.

Derbyshire dropped Solanki three times - the first before he had scored - and three others in Worcestershire's second innings.

With both attacks badly depleted at Chester-le-Street, the bat continued to dominate as Durham easily wiped out a first-innings deficit of 90 against Glamorgan yesterday.

John Morris passed his season's best of 50 to finish unbeaten on 68 as he shared an unbroken stand of 128 with Jon Lewis, leaving Durham 38 ahead with all wickets intact.

England's youngsters are pressing for victory in the first Under-19 Test against Pakistan at New Road, Worcester.

Graeme Swann, the Northamptonshire off-spinner who collected a pair when batting, took 5 for 40 in 15.5 overs as the tourists closed at 144 for 8, still requiring 55 for victory on the fourth and final day today.

Kent made to toil by Windows

BY DEREK HODGSON
at Bristol

Gloucestershire 142 & 456
Kent 163 & 83-2

BOTH TEAMS need to win to retain credibility as fringe contenders but after the excitement of Friday, when 17 wickets fell, this pitch has rolled into such an eiderdown - Harry Bird probably fell asleep while watching on Saturday - that a draw is not impossible.

Kent made slow but determined progress towards their target of 436 in the 35 overs remaining last evening and were helped by the absence of Mark Alleyne from the attack. Alleyne, so often Gloucestershire's golden arm, has a strained calf muscle but may bowl today.

Gloucestershire had an overnight lead of 191 but were in no mood to permit Kent early use of this easy surface, with all the potential threat of a huge, fast innings from Carl

Hooper. They added another 102 in 30 overs before the new ball at last gave Kent a weapon.

Alleyne added 83 to his first innings 55 (now that Ian Austin has been belatedly recognised, how about a cheering call from David Graveney to Gloucestershire's captain?) before becoming the first of four successive victims for the wicketkeeper Steve Marsh as Julian Thompson took 3 for 11 in 29 balls, the reward for attacking bowling to line and length, moving

away into a stiff breeze.

Gloucestershire's rising batting star, Matt "Steamy" Windows, celebrated his county cap with his third championship century (192 balls, 11 fours) but his departure, at 338, brought Kent little relief, as Jack Russell, after a shaky start, got his feet and bat moving. The final humiliation for an attack shorn, by the selectors, of Dean Headley and Mark Ealham, was a last wicket stand of 55, which included

sixes from Mike Smith and Courtney Walsh.

Carl Hooper bowled 44 overs but all we saw of Min Patel was occasional visits as a substitute for the limping Alan Wells. So, like much county cricket, it was over upon over of fast-medium seam bowling, which can be tedious. The virtual elimination of finger spinners from the first-class game is analogous to the removal of Mozart from the classical repertoire.

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Britannic Assurance County Championship

Derbyshire v Worcestershire

Derbyshire (Day 3 of 4): Derbyshire (22pts) beat Worcestershire (4pts) by 28 runs

Worcestershire won toss
Derbyshire - First innings 280 (Weston 84, Lampert 5-33)
Worcestershire - First innings 104 (Dean 4-52)

Derbyshire - Second innings 168 (Moody 5-64, Newport 4-44)
Worcestershire - Second innings Overlaid 53-3

Second Innings Count
Runs 6s 4s Bts Min
V S Solanki c Weston b DeFreitas...170 1 11 188 268
M J Moody bow b Dean...51 0 5 55 77
N Leach bow b Dean...26 0 3 58 72
S R Lampert bow b Dean...21 0 4 5 5
S R Lampert bow b Dean...21 0 4 5 5
P J Newport c May b DeFreitas...6 0 1 11 10
M J Moody bow b Dean...5 0 1 11 10
R J Chapman not out...0 0 0 0 0
Extras (b1 b2 nb1 nb2)...28
Total (for 10, 70.1 overs)...318
Fall: 1-19, 2-24, 3-29, 4-112, 5-212, 6-216, 7-226, 8-305, 9-316

Derbyshire v Kent
Derbyshire (Day 3 of 4): Derbyshire (18 pts) are leading Glamorgan (6 pts) by 28 runs with all second-innings wickets in hand

Derbyshire won toss
Derbyshire - First innings 396 (Spence 106, Speck 59, Thomas 5-107)
Glamorgan - First innings Overlaid 258-4 (Maynard 79)

First Innings Count
Runs 6s 4s Bts Min
P A Corney c Speight b Collingwood...123 0 11 112 321
M J Powell c Collingwood b Phillips...67 0 1 92 112
D Woodward c Collingwood b Wood...22 0 2 82 124
S D Thomas c Speight b Wood...5 0 1 11 10
A P Davies run out...0 0 1 11 10
D A Coster c Speight b Collingwood...1 0 0 1 10
S P Jones not out...29 0 0 0 0
Extras (b1 b2 nb1 nb2)...486
Total (111.4 overs)...1111

Gloucestershire v Kent

Gloucestershire (Day 3 of 4): Kent (4 pts) beat Gloucestershire (4 pts) by 28 runs

Gloucestershire won toss
Gloucestershire - First innings 142 (Alleyne 55, Thompson 4-52, McCague 4-41)

Kent - First innings 163 (Marsh 60, Walsh 4-77)
Gloucestershire - Second innings Overlaid 212-3 (Hancock 63)

Second Innings Count
Runs 6s 4s Bts Min
M W Alleyne c Marsh b McCague...83 0 14 143 199
M G N Windows c Marsh b Thompson...12 0 1 33 47
R C Russell c Marsh b Fleming...41 0 5 55 68
M C J Ball b Thompson...6 0 0 26 28
J Lewis c Wells b Hooper...13 0 2 16 33
A M Smith not out...28 1 2 40 48
C A Walsh c Wells b Thompson...25 2 0 43 44
Extras (b1 b2 nb1 nb2)...456
Total (143.4 overs)...456

Gloucestershire v Somerset
Gloucestershire (Day 3 of 4): Somerset (20pts) beat Gloucestershire (4pts) by 2 wickets

Gloucestershire won toss
Gloucestershire - First innings 187 (Rose 5-67, Caddick 5-70)

Somerset - First innings 179 (Bowler 78, Brown 5-40)
Gloucestershire - Second innings 206 (Roper 5-40, Caddick 4-45)

Somerset - Second Innings Overlaid 29-1

Hampshire v Essex

Hampshire (Day 3 of 4): Hampshire (24pts) beat Essex (3pts) by innings and 111 runs

Hampshire won toss
Hampshire - First innings 141 (McLean 5-37, Hartley 4-42)

Essex - First innings 490 (Smith 138, Keach 61, White 58, Mascarenhas 53, Morris 51)

Essex - Second Innings Overlaid 50-2

Second Innings Count
Runs 6s 4s Bts Min
D D J Robinson bow b Hartley...36 0 4 124 134
R C Irani c Mascarenhas b Morris...35 0 5 82 120
A P Grylls bow b Hartley...5 0 1 9 14
G R Napier bow b Hartley...4 0 1 6 10
D R Law c Stephenson b McLean...48 2 4 37 53
B J Hyatt c Keach b Morris...31 0 5 73 95
M C Torr c Ayres b Morris...23 0 4 26 40
N F Williams not out...27 1 4 14 20
P M Such c Ayres b Morris...18 0 2 14 17
Extras (b1 nb1 nb2)...15
Total (67 overs)...238

Hampshire v Northamptonshire
Hampshire (Day 3 of 4): Northamptonshire (20pts) beat Hampshire (4pts) by 2 wickets

Hampshire won toss
Hampshire - First innings 187 (Rose 5-67, Caddick 5-70)

Northamptonshire - First Innings Overlaid 264-4 (Byss 101, Lehmann 71)

Yorkshire v Lancashire

Yorkshire (Day 3 of 4): Lancashire (6 pts) are leading Yorkshire (7 pts) by 136 runs with 6 second-innings wickets in hand

Yorkshire won toss
Yorkshire - First innings 484 (Crawley 180, Lloyd 56)

Lancashire - First Innings Overlaid 264-4 (Byss 101, Lehmann 71)

First Innings Count
Runs 6s 4s Bts Min
A McGrath bow b Chappell...40 0 5 127 134
P M Hinchinson bow b Chappell...5 0 1 28 35
I R J Blakey not out...67 0 4 187 197
G M Hamilton c Flintoff b Keedy...56 0 6 71 83
J D Middlebrook c Lloyd b Yates...41 0 5 87 88
R D Stamp not out...5 0 0 10 8
Extras (b1 nb1 nb2)...21
Total (for 8 dec, 158 overs)...457

Yorkshire v Lancashire
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Lancashire - Second Innings Overlaid 264-4 (Byss 101, Lehmann 71)

First NatWest Under 19 Test

England Under 19 v Pakistan Under 19
England Under 19 won by 28 runs

England Under 19 won toss
England Under 19 - First innings 260 (Shah 96, Irfan Fazl 6-54)

Pakistan Under 19 won toss
Pakistan Under 19 - First Innings Overlaid 58-2

Second Innings Count
Runs 6s 4s Bts Min
R W T Key c Bazil Khan b Irfan Fazl...62 0 11 94 152
S D Peters c Irfan Fazl...72 0 12 111 142
G P Swann c Irfan Fazl b Shah...0 0 0 15 15
P J Roach c Hamayun Farhat...14 0 1 52 56
A Laraman c Hamayun Farhat...3 0 0 17 30
C J Schofield not out...23 0 0 23 23
M Wallace bow b Zahid Saeed...2 0 0 7 23
J D Grose c Zahid Saeed...0 0 0 2 1
Extras (b1 b2 nb1 nb2)...269
Total (72.5 overs)...269

England Under 19 v Pakistan Under 19
England Under 19 won by 28 runs

England Under 19 won toss
England Under 19 - First Innings Overlaid 58-2

Second Innings Count
Runs 6s 4s Bts Min
R W T Key c Bazil Khan b Irfan Fazl...62 0 11 94 152
S D Peters c Irfan Fazl...72 0 12 111 142
G P Swann c Irfan Fazl b Shah...0 0 0 15 15
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Extras (b1 b2 nb1 nb2)...269
Total (72.5 overs)...269

England Under 19 v Pakistan Under 19
England Under 19 won by 28 runs

Today's Fixtures

11.00am start unless stated
BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP:
(Fourth day of four unless stated) Riverside:
Durham v Glamorgan, Bristol: Gloucestershire
v Kent, Headingley: Yorkshire v Lancashire

FIRST NATWEST UNDER 19 TEST (Fourth day of four)
Worcester: England v Pakistan

Derbyshire v Worcestershire
Derbyshire v Kent
Gloucestershire v Somerset
Hampshire v Essex
Hampshire v Northamptonshire
Yorkshire v Lancashire

Derbyshire v Worcestershire
Derbyshire v Kent
Gloucestershire v Somerset
Hampshire v Essex
Hampshire v Northamptonshire
Yorkshire v Lancashire

Derbyshire v Worcestershire
Derbyshire v Kent
Gloucestershire v Somerset
Hampshire v Essex
Hampshire v Northamptonshire
Yorkshire v Lancashire

Derbyshire v Worcestershire
Derbyshire v Kent
Gloucestershire v Somerset
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Derbyshire v Worcestershire
Derbyshire v Kent
Gloucestershire v Somerset
Hampshire v Essex
Hampshire v Northamptonshire
Yorkshire v Lancashire

22/FOOTBALL

Dykstra at the double

A BRILLIANT double save by the Dutch goalkeeper Siek Dykstra in the last minute earned 10-man United a surprise point against Hearts yesterday.

It was no more than the home side deserved for Hearts started off as strong favourites after beating Rangers in their opening league game.

The visitors' strength in depth was emphasised by Jim Jefferies' decision to leave out midfielder Lee Makiel in favour of Steve Fulton while former United favourite Steve Pressley was a substitute.

But United's hard work looked like it might all be in vain when Steve Thompson was shown the red card by the referee, Stuart Dougal, for an innocuous-looking tackle on Gary Locke late in the game.

In the last minute Fulton sent a superb ball through to Neil McCann and the winger saw his fierce net-bound effort pushed away by Dykstra.

And while Fulton returned the loose ball into the danger zone, the former Queen's Park Rangers keeper brought off another fabulous save from David Weir's close range header.

Ally McCoist appeared for the last three minutes at Mc-

Diarmid Park, but there was no sign of a goal from any source as St Johnstone and Kilmarnock ground out a draw.

The former Rangers and Scotland international had no complaints about Bobby Williamson's decision. "I know I only got a few minutes, but to be fair he had seen me in training all last week," joked McCoist, who is still searching for match fitness.

Williamson, who retained the team who defeated Dundee United 2-0 on the opening day of the season, was content with a point. He said: "We were away in Europe in midweek so I thought the players handled it well and I've got to be happy."

Kilmarnock created the better chances of a contest that was spirited but lacked quality, the best opportunity falling to Ian Durrant in the closing stages who mis-hit a shot badly when well-placed.

The Saints manager, Paul Sturrock, felt his side were "sluggish" and warned he will look elsewhere if his players continue to produce below-par showings. He said: "It is a long season and you always need to strengthen so there will come a time when we will spend

money. I reckon I need three players of a better standard in certain areas of the team - we are certainly looking for another striker."

"We have highly paid professionals here but some of them have let themselves down by not looking sharp enough."

Aside from Rangers' 2-1 win over Motherwell at Ibrox, the Scottish Premier League's only other Saturday fixture saw Dunfermline defeat Dundee 2-0 through goals from Andy Smith and George Shaw.

Last season's First Division title winners Dundee have still to score this season and have now recorded two league defeats as well as a League Cup loss to Alloa.

Jocky Scott, the manager, said: "Bad defending cost us as usual, there was no conviction about our display and we must work harder. The manner we lost the goals upset me. To improve these results we have to learn how to defend well."

The Pars were also surprised in last week's League Cup second round by Livingston, but despite Gavin Johnson's sending-off held on for a vital win with 10 men.



Liverpool's goal-scorer Michael Owen (left) uses his pace to round Southampton's Scott Hiley at The Dell yesterday

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP
Yesterday
Sheff Wed (11-1) Liverpool (1) 2-0
Oxford 3-6
15,202 Owen 73

Saturday
Blackburn 0-0 Derby 0-0
Coventry 2-0 Chelsea 0-0
Everton 0-0 Aston Villa 0-0
Man Utd 2-0 Leicester 0-0
Middlesbrough 0-0 Charlton 0-0
Newcastle 0-0 Leeds 0-0
Sheff Wed 0-0 West Ham 0-0
Wimbledon 3-0 Tottenham 0-0

1998 PREMIERSHIP MATCHES LIVE ON SKY

Today: Arsenal v Nottingham Forest
22 Aug Aston Villa v Middlesbrough
23 Aug Leeds v Blackburn
24 Aug Newcastle v Liverpool
25 Aug Blackburn v Chelsea
26 Aug Tottenham v Arsenal
27 Aug Manchester United v Liverpool
28 Aug Arsenal v Middlesbrough
29 Aug West Ham v Southampton
30 Aug Liverpool v Chelsea
1 Oct Coventry v Sheffield Wednesday
2 Oct Leicester v Tottenham
3 Oct Blackburn v Arsenal
4 Oct Tottenham v Nottingham Forest
5 Oct Tottenham v Charlton
6 Oct Leeds v Sheffield Wednesday
7 Oct Coventry v Everton
8 Oct Nottingham Forest v Derby
9 Oct Derby v West Ham
10 Oct Tottenham v Newcastle
11 Oct Liverpool v Blackburn
12 Oct Middlesbrough v Newcastle
13 Oct Sheffield Wednesday v Nottingham Forest
14 Oct Wimbledon v Liverpool
15 Oct Arsenal v Everton
16 Oct Nottingham Forest v Derby
17 Oct Tottenham v West Ham
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Blues blow their own trumpet

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

Birmingham City 3
Crystal Palace 1

THE FRUSTRATIONS of countless seasons of unfulfilled dreams have persuaded Birmingham City's supporters to indulge themselves during yesterday's impressive victory at St Andrew's. "Top of the League," they sang lustily as their team overcame Crystal Palace to go to the head of the embryonic Nationwide First Division table.

The season may only be in its infancy and the rules governing goals scored still bizarre enough to bewilder Trevor Francis, but City's manager, who is not about to argue with his Blues' worthiness as leaders.

"But I still can't come to terms with why 3-1 should be better than 2-0," he said.

If City had retained their 2-0 half-time lead, they would have merely finished the day as joint leaders with Wolves but, by reducing the arrears with a late header from Hayden Mullins, his first in senior football, Palace

wouldn't believe it," said the manager. The 21m Adebola had already threatened twice when he gave City a 12th-minute lead with a half-volley.

Then Marc Edworthy was pulled up for supposedly pulling Simon Charlton's shirt. The award of a penalty, swept home by Martin O'Connor, once a Palace reserve, annoyed Terry Venables. "If penalties are being given for shirt-pulling," argued the Palace manager, "then at least they should have been consistent and given us one when Bruce Dyer had his shirt pulled."

With the help of Adebola's high-stepping runs, Peter Ndlovu's spectacular dashes and Charlton's astute sorties, City were always dangerous on the break. However, the hosts' smug look of complacency vanished when Ian Bennett rushed madly from his goal, colliding with his own defender Michael Johnson to permit Mullins a decisive connection with Dean Austin's routine cross.

Palace were suddenly chasing a point. Bennett redeemed himself by clawing down a Matt Jansen drive before the Birmingham substitute Nicky Forster turned in Martin Grainger's cross to leave the division with an unfamiliar early look about it.

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Birmingham's Simon Charlton and Marc Edworthy tussle for possession at St Andrew's yesterday. Allsport

Monaco inspired by Henry

EUROPEAN ROUND-UP

THIERRY HENRY silenced the critics who accused him of thinking only of a transfer abroad by helping Monaco beat promoted Sochaux 4-1 in the French First Division on Saturday.

Monaco, Marseilles - who beat Metz 1-0 - and Bordeaux, 3-2 winners at Le Havre, are the only sides on maximum points

after two matches, with the Monegasques ahead on goal difference.

Henry, who said last week he wanted to join his former coach Arsène Wenger at Arsenal, was in inspired form, laying on the first goal for Portuguese midfielder Francisco Da Costa in the opening minute.

Sochaux replied within four minutes, defender Bernard Maraval rifling a close-range

shot past helpless World Cup goalkeeper Fabien Barthez.

Nigeria's Victor Ikpeba restored Monaco's lead in the eighth minute in front of a crowd of 12,000 at the Stade Louis II, where attendances are generally a third of that.

Henry scored in the 50th minute after a 40-metre run, before laying on a second for Ikpeba seven minutes from the final whistle.

A second-half goal by Giovane Elber gave Bundesliga favourites Bayern Munich a 1-0 win at VfL Wolfsburg in their opening match of the new season. The champions, Kaiserslautern, also started with an away win, beating 1860 Munich 2-1.

The Germany coach, Bert Vogts, said yesterday that he will resign if his team fail to qualify for the European Championship finals in 2000.

Unsworth will not go 'on cheap'

DAVID UNSWORTH will finally make his first competitive appearance for Aston Villa tonight, even though the central defender is still hoping to move back to Goodison Park.

But John Gregory, the Villa manager, has warned Everton they have "no chance" of securing Unsworth's services unless they match the £3m paid to West Ham last month.

Unsworth moved from Upton Park to Villa, but then asked to go to Everton after his wife refused to move from their Merseyside home and because of the problems of a 160-mile round trip to training each day.

Unsworth was suspended for Villa's opening Premier League match - ironically at Everton - but he will turn out for the reserves tonight against Leicester.

Gregory said: "He is back with us trying to get on with his life and hopeful that Everton are going to come back in for him. But if they think they are going to do a deal on the cheap for, say, £2.5m, then they've got no chance."

"In fact, you could argue that for all the inconvenience we have suffered so soon near the start of the season that Everton should pay over the odds for Unsworth."

Nottingham Forest will let their unhappy striker Pierre van Hooijdonk go for £8m and Turkish side Fenerbahce are favourites to sign him.

Forest have decided to cut their losses and reduce their original valuation of the Dutchman, who is refusing to return to the City Ground. Forest are so keen to sell that they have

also employed an agent, Paul Stretford, to find him a club.

Fenerbahce have tabled an opening offer of £5.5m for Van Hooijdonk and are trying to reach a compromise deal with Forest.

Tommy Burns, the Reading manager, has laid down the law to his side after their poor start to the season. He has banned alcohol, junk food, mobile phones and dissent in a crackdown on his players following their 4-1 defeat at Bristol Rovers.

He said: "I don't like to see the players chatting away on a mobile phone and ignoring their team-mates when travelling to matches. That's a time for the players to be bonding together as a team and they can't do that if they are having private conversations."

"They are also banned from drinking alcohol when on club business, or eating junk food. We have installed a microwave on the team bus to cook pasta for them. They have no problems with that because they know it is for the good of their health."

Neville Southall and Simon Barker are set to sign for Doncaster Rovers today. The Doncaster manager, Ian Snodin, has asked his old Everton team-mate Southall to help out the G.M. Vauxhall Conference side and he is set for his debut tomorrow.



THAT WAS THE WEEKEND THAT WAS

EDITED BY JON CULLEY

Halifax's ambition shines in The Shay

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE newcomers Halifax Town are trying desperately hard to keep their feet on the ground after a successful return to the big time.

Saturday's 1-0 victory over Third Division promotion favourites Brentford maintained a 100 per cent record in three matches - two in the League, one in the Worthington Cup - and three clean sheets.

The Halifax manager, Kieran O'Regan, struggled to impose self-restraint. "I'm not going to start shouting from the rooftops, but if we carry on like this who knows what is going to happen," he said.

Not for the first time in Halifax's recent history, the decisive goal was supplied by Geoff Horsfield, leading GM

Vauxhall Conference scorers last season, whose 32nd-minute strike ensured that Halifax's first League match at the revamped Shay since 1993 ended in victory.

Their opening to the new campaign is all the more remarkable given the trauma that has accompanied the build-up to their reintroduction to the League.

The first shock came only three days before their opening fixture at Peterborough when the then manager, George Mulhall, rewarded with a three-year contract after steering Town to the Conference title, suddenly announced his resignation to take up the post of director of football, leaving O'Regan in charge.

Then came stories that Peter Butler, a summer sign-

ing from West Bromwich Albion, had been appointed player-coach without O'Regan's knowledge. Last week, the chairman, Chris Holland, resigned only two months after accepting the post, handing over the reins to Halifax businessman Jim Brown.

Yet finding harmony on the field, the team followed an opening-day 2-0 win over Peterborough by defeating Wrexham by the same score in the Worthington Cup before Saturday's win over Brentford, with Horsfield on the mark in all three games.

And there was the added satisfaction of a bumper crowd on Saturday, where an attendance of almost 4,000 represented six times the number who would turn up only two years ago.

PREMIERSHIP TEAM OF THE WEEK

ALEX CLELAND Everton	HORACIO CARBONARI Derby County
PAUL GASCOIGNE Middlesbrough	ROBERT MOLENAAR Leeds United
DION DUBLIN Coventry	MARK BOSNICH Aston Villa
OLIVER DACOURT Everton	GARETH BARRY Aston Villa
EBEN ESKOU Wimbledon	MUZZY IZZET Leicester City
MICHAEL HUGHES Wimbledon	

Manager of the week: Wimbledon's Joe Kinnear - who started the season as he means to go on, defying the odds with victory over the team he most likes to beat.

Performance of the week: Coventry City against of Chelsea, reassurance that the latest Moneybags XI will have to do a bit more than simply turn up.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Today: After watching the Premiership season start without them, Arsenal begin the defence of their title at home to Nottingham Forest in what could be a traumatic experience for Don Baskett's side, with a largely untested line-up led by the untried strike partnership of Dougie Freedson and Jean-Claude Darcheville.

Tomorrow: Second-leg matches in the Worthington Cup's opening round provide a busy night. Barnsley, having to adjust to rather different circumstances after their dream year in the Premiership, face Scarborough at Oakwell with a 1-0 platform from the first leg. In Scotland, Rangers take on Albia in a round three of the Scottish League Cup.

Wednesday: Crystal Palace attempt to avoid an early embarrassment for manager Terry Venables after being held to a 1-1 draw by Torquay in their away first-leg Worthington Cup tie.

Friday: Satellite television viewers can judge just how Barnsley are acclimatising when they entertain Stockport County in the First Division.

Saturday: Liverpool's home match against champions Arsenal represents by far the pick of eight Premiership matches.

Taylor II - now would he like that

WHISPER IT softly - but the Premiership may have to brace itself for the second coming of Graham Taylor and Watford.

Taylor made his managerial name with the Vicarage Road club with a charge up the Football League that began 20 years ago, overseeing the Hornets in an incredible five-year rise that took them from the old Fourth Division to runners-up in the First Division.

It was an era that launched a number of successful careers, most notably that of Newcastle's former England international John Barnes. Now Taylor is threatening to repeat the trick after Saturday's win over Bradford City placed Watford among the early-season pacesetters in the new First Division, only three months after claiming the Second Division title.

With his old friend Elton John giving the once-derid-

ed England manager his full support, it must seem like old times for Taylor, although there is no hint yet of his rock star chairman reaching for the cheque book.

Taylor spent only £225,000 on incoming players during the summer yet still managed to bring in several new names, including his one-time Aston Villa and Wolves winger Tony Daley and the former Derby centre-back Dean Yates, neither of whom cost a penny.

It looks good business alongside the £3.5m that Bradford chairman Geoffrey Richmond has allowed manager Paul Jewell to spend in an attempt to take the Yorkshire team into the Premiership.

And Taylor's new Barnes? It could be the Zaire international striker Michael Ngonge, who capped his debut after arriving from Turkish club Samsunspor by heading Saturday's decisive goal.

KEY NUMBERS

7 minutes had elapsed before Manchester United conceded the first goal of the Premiership season.

10 seconds on the field were required by Everton substitute Don Hutchison to collect his first booking of the campaign.

15 Premiership minutes were survived by £10.75m Manchester United defender Jaap Stam before he sustained the injury that led to his substitution at half-time against Leicester.

30 seconds were needed for Alex Smith to score Saturday's fastest goal for Chester at Brighton.

I TOLD YOU SO

We have to be more solid, more defensively tuned in and concentrated than last season Chelsea manager Gianluca Vialli, before Saturday's defeat at Coventry. Sadly, he forgot to tell his players...

Missing... making it... and mistaken

 NICLAS ALEXANDERSSON SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY <p>A BARGAIN £750,000 signing from IFK Gothenburg last December, the Swedish midfielder looked like the ingredient Ron Atkinson's Sheffield Wednesday side had been lacking but made only eight appearances before suffering a cruciate ligament injury in January, after which Wednesday's fortunes began to decline. The 24-year-old hopes to make a comeback towards the end of next month.</p>	 GARETH BARRY ASTON VILLA <p>With Ugo Ehiogu suspended and no replacement yet secured for Steve Staunton, Villa were forced to summon 17-year-old Barry to fill the breach in their central defence against Everton on Saturday. It was only a second senior appearance for the youngster yet he produced a calm, composed display. However, it could hardly have been more daunting than his debut last season - against Premiership champions Arsenal.</p>	 DI CANIO <p>"And then this dark Italian with sideburns and swept back hair comes into my office and says I need to buy three players," Danny Wilson tells the Sheffield Wednesday chairman, "and I thought I was supposed to be the Godfather round here!"</p>
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Fact and fiction from the Sunday papers

Manchester United's search for a striker is reported to have switched back to Alan Boksic following the failure of last week's £10m attempt to prise Dwight Yorke from Aston Villa. The People says United, who tried to buy Boksic for £8m a year ago, are prepared to go to £10m now. Boksic's future with the Italian side Lazio is uncertain following the arrival of Chilean Marcelo Salas, ironically a previous United target, but United would have to meet pre-tax wage demands of £2m a year to land the Croatian.

Meanwhile, according to the People, Middlesbrough and Nottingham Forest are competing to tempt away Teddy Sheringham, who is no longer able to command a regular place at Old Trafford. Both are said to be willing to pay £22,000-a-week to the England striker, although cash-strapped Forest will struggle to find the £3m transfer fee unless they

can sell Pierre van Hooijdonk. The Mail says Van Hooijdonk, who has refused to report back to the City Ground for the new season after alleging that Forest lack ambition, pocketed a £150,000 signing-on fee before going on strike.

The News of the World claims that Tottenham are set to sign Internazionale's £4m-rated Nigerian international Nwankwo Kanu, whose chances of first-team football in Milan have been further reduced by the arrival of Roberto Baggio from Bologna.

Middlesbrough, says the same paper, are ready to spend £3m on West Bromwich's Republic of Ireland winger Kevin Kilbane.

Liverpool's bid to strengthen their defence is focusing on Sweden, according to the People, with AIK Stockholm's Johan Mjallby reportedly a £2m target for Roy Evans and Gérard Houllier.

Glamour boys fall to scrap dealers

BY GLENN MOORE

Coventry City 2
Chelsea 1

INPUT: 13 international players, speaking eight languages, costing £34.5m to buy and £1m a month to keep. Output: One goal, no points.

That was Chelsea's balance sheet from Highfield Road when the first results of the season were released on Saturday. Money may talk but it does not necessarily make sense.

Chelsea's defeat to Coventry was not entirely unexpected, it also happened on opening day last season and it was always going to take a little time for Marcel Desailly, Albert Ferrer and Pierfrancesco Tosi to adapt to the English game's high-tempo and laissez-faire refereeing. In addition, with Celestine Babayaro and Gustavo Poyet having rarely played last season communication problems were not just linguistic.

Yet even with those qualifications the match did little to erase the doubts as to Chelsea's championship prospects. As the Premier League's glamour side they have become one of the teams to beat before becoming hard to beat. They may have come fourth last season but they lost 15 matches, nine more than Arsenal.

They are also still to find the right response when opponents get physical. Graeme Le Saux, Dennis Wise and Frank Leboeuf, in particular, tend to lose their heads and their tempers instead of just standing firm.

Not that Coventry were dirty, just determined to ensure Chelsea were given no time to dwell on the ball and demonstrate their quality. "They are better players than we are so we knew we had to work tremendously hard to beat them," said Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager.

Chelsea were no slackers but their work-rate lacked the edge that came from Coventry's fear of what might happen if they eased up. City have good players but only Marcus Hedman, who had an outstanding game in goal, George Boateng and the goalscorers, Dion Dublin and Darren Huckerby, would have a chance of making even Chelsea's squad. Having had their confidence boosted with two goals in 16 minutes they scrapped like mink to keep it.

This desire, which reflects Strachan's personality, and the goal-threat of Dublin and Huckerby, is the reason why this year no one has tipped them for the drop. With further strengthening Europe could even be within reach.

Chelsea, who paraded seven World Cup players, are aiming far higher. On the eve of the game Gianluca Vialli admitted: "I have no excuse. We've got exactly the team we were looking for."

There were good signs, notably the sharpness of Castraghi who, if he had not been for Hedman, might have had a hat-trick and which clearly score heavily. The midfielders all had promising moments but one wonders if Desailly might end up bringing his presence to bear there rather than at the back where Huckerby proved to be more

trouble than Ronaldo had been.

The 22-year-old, who should make an England debut this season, drifted away from him after 11 minutes to chip Dublin's flick-on over Ed de Goey for the first. Then Dublin nonchalantly beat Desailly and Poyet to head in Noel Whelan's free-kick.

Chelsea responded with a Poyet header from Wise's free-kick but could not beat Hedman again. To chants of "Eng-ger-land, Eng-ger-land" Coventry held on.

A victory for England? Not quite, significant roles were played by Scandinavian, Dutch and Scot while a pair of Belgians wait in the wings. In addition, Coventry's priorities seem askew when jobs worth order the club's apprentices, all dressed in smart suits and hoping to learn from the likes of Desailly, to watch the game on television in the bar downstairs as there was not a proper seat for them.

There should have been at least one vacant place as the police belief that the game's over-weening hype will provoke a return to violence was given justification by some spectators.

One particular incident showed the sometimes uncomfortable juxtaposition between the alleged gentrification of the game and the tensions raised by its present intensity. When Poyet scored a five-year-old girl, seated with her father in an area reserved for home fans, stood up wearing a Chelsea shirt and waved a Chelsea flag almost as big as she. A Coventry fan nearby spat forth a torrent of abuse and demanded the stewards throw the interlopers out.

With the intervention of his friends an uneasy calm prevailed though the terrified little girl kept the flag down from then on. Leaving aside the foolishness of the parent and the near-certainty that Stamford Bridge would have been equally intolerant - the worrying aspect was the weakness of the stewards who were even more reluctant to intervene when the same Coventry fan later picked a fight with a fellow City supporter over the merits, or otherwise, of Whelan.

Controlled passion, as exhibited by City's players, is a tremendous asset. Uncontrolled it becomes something nastier. When a caller to Six-O-Six is demanding the sacking of Kenny Dalglish barely 100 minutes after Newcastle's opening game it underlines that the first victim of the season is perspective.

Next week Newcastle visit Chelsea. If either lose the season's first "crisis club" will be upon us. No wonder both are reported to have requested "further information" following an approach from the proposed European superleagues.

Coventry, 32 unbroken seasons in the top flight and counting, still await the call.

Goals: Huckerby (11) 1-0; Dublin (16) 2-0; Poyet (37) 2-1.
Coventry City (4-4-2): Hedman; Nisson, Shaw, Williams, Burrows, Tosi, Castraghi (P.H.); Huckerby, Desailly, Wise, Ferrer, Leboeuf, Le Saux, Poyet, D. Martin (Zola, 70). Winger: Babayaro; Castraghi, Vialli (70, 68). Substitutes not used: Doherty, Hitchcock, Newton.
Referee: G. Barber (Woking).
Booked: Coventry: Wise, Shaw, Burrows, Huckerby; Chelsea: Wise, Vialli, Ferrer.
Man of the match: Dublin.
Attendance: 23,042.



David Beckham's expertise at free-kicks proved to be a match-saving quality for Manchester United on Saturday

Robert Hallam

United still pining for Cantona

PHIL SHAW

Manchester United 2
Leicester City 2

ALL afternoon he had fidgeted in front of the dug-out like a man with a mink inside his sweat-shirt. Now, like the match itself, his face was drawn by guilt. David Beckham's stoppage-time equaliser, "You look exhausted," ventured one scribe. "You should see me in October," shot back Martin O'Neill.

Even the least manic of managers would have struggled to stay calm during a finale in which Leicester lost a goalkeeper, their defensive linchpin and eventually a two-goal lead but still emerged with a creditable draw from the home of the championship favourites. O'Neill seemed unsure whether to laugh or cry, but perhaps did not have the energy to do either.

The defining characteristic of O'Neill's team, like the Northern Irishman himself, is perpetual motion. There were times during the first half when they swarmed towards Peter Schmeichel, as if possessing extra men, in a manner that stunned all but one corner of Old Trafford into silence. In the end they ran out of steam, not to mention luck, though not before deepening the doubts surrounding United.

Alex Ferguson's need for new strikers is so pressing that he was prepared to test the rules concerning illegal approaches in the case of Dwight Yorke. Andy Cole's lack of involvement against Leicester highlighted why it must remain a priority, but while most of Saturday's shortcomings can be rectified by tactical fine-tuning and sharper match-fitness, one is more deeply rooted.

Eric Cantona's retirement 15 months ago robbed the United manager of a player to link mid-field and the front; a catalyst with the craft to unlock the sort of 10-man barrier Leicester erected in the second half. For all that, Teddy Sheringham seemed a logical replacement, he does not possess that *je ne sais quoi* which brought an element of the unpredictable to their attacks.

There were moments when it seemed the role was being assumed by Ryan Giggs, who perched himself into a congested centre when United were crying out for someone to get behind Leicester's wing-backs. Beckham, too, came in-field without being able to replicate Cantona's creative authority. Until his face-saving goal, his principal contribution was a stream of crosses from too far out to trouble Matt Elliott and company.

Only in the final quarter of the contest did Giggs push into the wide position which best suits his talents and his team, although by then United looked a lost cause. Emile Heskey, surprisingly more mobile and confident than Cole, had poked Leicester ahead after being set up by the relentlessly industrious Muzzy Izet.

Tony Cottee made up for a string of misses by doubling the lead, before Sheringham's riposte ensured that the closing minutes would take the form of a siege. Frank Sinclair was enjoying a debut to confound those who regarded him as Chelsea's weak link (in stark contrast, it transpired, with Marcel Desailly's introduction), but Leicester were already coping without the injured Kasey Keller and suddenly had Elliott helped off, too.

Finally, deep in stoppage time, a trademark Beckham

free-kick answered those in the away pen who had booed him boorishly. O'Neill spoke of "a very sombre dressing-room", while his opposite number, getting soft in his old age, admitted it was "debatable" whether United deserved a point.

Ferguson's concern that they were a couple of games behind in their preparation gives an unexpected edge to tomorrow's sell-out testimonial match for the survivors of the Munich air disaster between United and Eric Cantona's European XI.

The Frenchman, incidentally, has declared his intention to play the full 90 minutes. Too much time has passed for him to be tempted back, yet his experience in dealing with the aftermath of his "kung-fu" assault on a lavatory-mouthed spectator at Selhurst Park might be of help to Beckham as he prepares to face the self-

righteous wrath of West Ham's crowd next weekend.

Beckham's virtuosity, allied to poor positioning by Leicester's substitute keeper, Pegguy Arphexad, were still putting O'Neill's emotions through the wringer long after his nerves had been squeezed into submission. "My youth coach told me he'd got these two great 15-year-olds," he said, apparently apropos of nothing. "I told him I don't want to know, because by the time they're 18 I'll be dead."

Goals: Heskey (71) 0-1; Cottrell (76) 0-2; Sheringham (78) 1-2; Beckham (80) 2-2; Manchester United (4-4-2): Smeaton; G. Neville (Sheringham, 76), Stam (Bog-h), Johnson, Irwin, Beckham, Butt; Keane, Giggs, Cole, Smeaton. Substitutes not used: May, P. Neville, Cullen (84).
Leicester City (3-5-2): Keller (Arphexad, 60), Sinclair, Elliott (Keller, 58), Hagan, Savage, Zogorakis, Lennon, Pegguy, Guppy, Heskey, Cottee (Wilson, 64). Substitutes not used: Kuntz, Parker.
Referee: N. Barry (Scunthorpe).
Bookings: United, Sheringham; Leicester, Lennon, Guppy.
Man of the match: Izet.
Attendance: 55,052.

Perez class provides optimism

DAVE HADFIELD

Blackburn Rovers 0
Derby County 0

BLACKBURN SUPPORTERS looking hopefully among their summer signings for a new Alan Shearer or Colin Hendry might have seen instead an improved, younger version of Tim Sherwood.

The arrival of the new striker Kevin Davies - a £7.25m record signing from Southampton, at that - was bound to stir some echoes; likewise the Hendry-esque spectacle of Darren Peacock battling through despite injury.

But the buzz around Ewood was over the performance of the third debutant, Sebastian Perez, signed from Bastia for a more modest £3m.

Nominally playing wide on the right, Perez, until he tired in the last quarter, was everywhere on the pitch, prompting, probing and assuming responsibility that has traditionally resided with Rovers' captain.

The clear implication was that central midfield might be his ultimate destination. Sherwood, a sometimes underrated influence during the Shearer-Hendry years, will only be 30 at the end of this season, but Perez gives Rovers another driving force.

"There were a lot of tired players in the last 15 minutes, but he showed enough to suggest that he is going to be a very good asset for the club," said Roy Hodgson of the Premiership's latest long-haired Frenchman.

The same was true, with reservations, of Davies. He showed his capacity for hard work and his excellent first touch, but, having missed so much of the latter part of last season with ankle and knee injuries, was well short of match sharpness. Comparisons with Shearer will have to wait.

As for Peacock, his recovery to play after struggling with a knee injury all week signalled his determination to revive his career at Ewood. But the combination of the injury and settling into a new side made him an unstable element in the middle of the back four and Derby's best chances stemmed, directly or indirectly, from his rough edges.

Not that it was a match that particularly deserved a goal. Both attacks began in lively enough mode, but ran out of impetus as the game went on. Then enabled Stéphane Henchoz and Derby's new Argentinean, Horacio Carbonari, to get a grip in the two penalty areas.

But Derby had done enough to suggest that they are going to be dogged in defence and dangerous on the break this season.

Blackburn Rovers (4-4-2): Farnham; Henchoz, Peacock, Davidson, Perez (Gallagher, 69), Patterson, Sherwood, Wilkin (Duff, 65); Sutton, Davies (Dahlin, 70). Substitutes not used: McIlroy, Forri (64), Derby County (4-4-2): Hogg, Dally, Carbonari, Laursen (Elliott, 62); Delap, Carlsby, Powell, Schuster, Balogh (Barnett, 70); Wainwright (Barton, 89), Sturridge. Substitutes not used: Bridge-Waltonson, Poom (81).
Referee: S. Lodge (Barnsley).
Booked: Derby: Carlsby.
Attendance: 24,007.
Man of the match: Perez.



Peacock: Rough edges

Gazza must start playing the game

BY CLIVE WHITE

Middlesbrough 0
Leeds United 0

THE talk all week had been about how Glenn Hoddle had betrayed the trust of his England players, principally one Paul Gascoigne. But whose trust was Gazza betraying when he was out wining and dining at a restaurant just two days before the start of the season?

The fact that it was OK with Bryan Robson - "he assured me he only had two glasses of red wine so as far as I'm concerned that's not a problem, that's a nice, sensible night out" - does not make it right.

There is also the small matter of the trust of 35,000 season ticket holders who, it seems, are ready to bend backwards to give Gascoigne all the support he needs.

One despair of ever seeing a perfectly fit Gazza take the field again. For how many more months and years do we have to listen to managers telling us that he just needs "a few games to get 100 per cent". In the circumstances, I suppose, it was a surprise to see him playing at all, but like any great champion who is past his best it is sometimes better not to see them at all.

Part of the problem could be that Gazza knows he can get by even in a Premiership game, with only 70 per cent fitness, as he did here. And also that he has a manager who is sympathetic to his problem to an absurd degree. "It was only Thursday night," said Robson. "Only. No wonder our lack of professionalism is frowned upon abroad. Hoddle tried the kid-glove approach with Gazza and where did it get him? Let down - betrayed even - by the player's lack of fitness on the eve of the World Cup."

One would hope that the death of his close friend, David Cheek, at 43, apparently from a heart attack, shortly after his recent night out, will have a sobering effect on the player. Gascoigne still possesses the ability to make a telling pass and occasionally manoeuvre himself into useful shooting positions - as he did in the 83rd minute when producing the only meaningful shot of the afternoon - but he can no longer get away from opponents. And when he cannot, he allows an errant elbow to come into play,

as he did on Saturday when striking Ian Bowyer for which he was booked.

Robson is putting much store by the potential of his partnership with Paul Merson and certainly the latter does not look as though he will be letting Middlesbrough down this season. Most of Boro's best moves emanated from the former Arsenal player. The only trouble was, he was supposed to be there to finish them, but then Merson is essentially an attacking midfielder. Leeds were similarly found wanting in attack and sorely missed the suspended Jimmy Hasselbaink, never mind the departed Rod Wallace.

It was difficult to judge Boro when so seriously weakened by injury and suspension. At least they had the good sense not to seek a postponement. If only Gazza could learn from his mistakes, too.

Middlesbrough (4-5-1): Schwarzer; Woodside, Fleming, Gordon, Harrison; Stamp, Mutton (Maddison, 64), Gurney. Substitutes not used: Chalmers, Townsend, Moore (Beck, 73); Merriam, Beresford (64).
Leeds United (4-4-2): Martin, Haden, Kanchel, Moller, Harte, Hoggish, Hoggish, Bowyer, Sharpe, Kewell, Whitham, Sainsbury. Substitutes not used: Roberts, Wetherall, Grant, Ullie, Beeny (64).
Referee: D. Riley (Harrow).
Booked: Middlesbrough: Gascoigne, Leeds: Bowyer, Moller.
Man of the match: Merson.
Attendance: 34,160.

Boos and booze all round as Newcastle disappoint

BY SIMON TURNBULL

Newcastle United 0
Charlton Athletic 0

IT WAS only a matter of time before questions were going to be asked about the supposedly new Newcastle. They were duly delivered after 90 minutes of the same old stultifying stuff at St James' Park on Saturday.

When one reporter enquired "how disappointed" Kenny Dalglish happened to be after watching his team fail to break

down a Charlton team reduced to 10 men for 65 minutes, he was merely posing the kind of question the disgruntled footballers of the Toon Army would have liked to pose to the Newcastle manager as they left their boozing round the ground and headed for the nearest booze.

When it comes to facing the press Dalglish has the unhappy knack of treating even the most innocent of queries as a verbal dagger to his very heart. When he asked his inquisitor to

"spit out your dummy and rephrase the question," however, the inscrutable one met his match.

"I'm not having that," the affronted journalist retorted and followed up with a frank counter-attack which left a slightly chastened Dalglish obliged to answer his original question - up to a characteristically obtuse point, that is.

"We're disappointed not to come away with the three points," he said, "but we're level on points with Manches-

ter United and we're one ahead of Chelsea. If we finish the season like that we'll all be happy."

On Saturday's showing, Newcastle will be struggling to finish level with Charlton. They may have looked the part in pre-season, but in the heat of Premiership battle, against the debutants from London SE7, they looked like the same team that fell apart after beating Barcelona last season.

Though Alan Shearer had a sixth-minute shot cleared off the face of Nikolas Dabizas, Newcastle failed to find any cohesion.

Mills, Dalglish's team never seriously threatened to find a plot, let alone lose one. They had difficulty enough finding each other.

When Alessandro Pistone passed to Dermot Gallagher midway through the first half the referee changed his striped top. Not that it made any difference. Even when there was one red shirt left, after Richard Rufus was dismissed for landing a forearm smash on the face of Nikolaos Dabizas, Newcastle failed to find any cohesion.

John Barnes, a half-time substitute, pulled a hamstring crossing the half-way line (someone suggested it must have been a nosebleed instead). And the mere announcement of Warren Barton as Barnes' replacement was met with an echo of boos.

It was that sort of afternoon for Newcastle, one from which they would have deserved the three points. Pistone's 82nd-minute drive would have given them had Sasa Ilic not leapt to Charlton's rescue. That would

have been an injustice to Ilic and his colleagues, who almost snatched the victory themselves when Steve Jones forced a reflex save from Shay Given with five minutes remaining.

"We're gonna win the League," the Addicks addicts chanted, though Alan Curbishley was happy enough with the winning of a Premiership point. "If we'd had 11 men on the pitch all game and got a point I would have been delighted," the Charlton manager said.

It will be at The Valley that Curbishley's team tackle their next test, against Southampton. For Newcastle, though, the questions remain. The biggest is whether Dalglish will still be answering them at the end of the season. Autumn, that is.

Newcastle United (4-4-2): Given, Warren, Curran, Harte, Newton, Richardson, Robinson (Morrison, 81), Hunt (Ellison, 20). Substitutes not used: K. Jones, Peterson (64).
Charlton Athletic (4-4-2): Mc. Lillis, Nutter, Whide, Powell, Newton, Richardson, Kinsella, Henderson (S. Jones, 61). Substitutes not used: K. Jones, Peterson (64).
Referee: D. Gallagher (Stamuray).
Booked: Newcastle: Ilic, Charlton: Richardson.
Man of the match: Voevodin.
Attendance: 36,719.

Own

At the least Hoddle should apologise for his misjudgement. Davies could write that as well, as he did Beckham's and Teddy Sheringham's when they were called to account. But that will not happen unless someone is prepared to pay handsomely for it. Besides, it would be a good introduction to the paperback.

New boys are full of promise

Emerson (5-3-2): Myrhe, Cleland, Short, Tite, Matczak, Eide, Barning, Dacout (Hutchinson), Ferguson, Spencer, Gokarna (Teri, 6-4) Substitutes not used: Gerard (gk), Watson, Branch.
 Astoria Villa (5-3-2): Bosnich, Charles, Sceme, Southgate, Barry Wright, Lyndie Hendre, Thompson (Drepat, 7-4); Joannim, Vake Substitutes not used: Oaker (gk), Grayson.
 Masell, Peay
 Astoria Villa (Chester-le-Street)
 Bookings: Emerson, Short, Ball, Dacout, Hutchinson, Astoria Villa: Scime, Joannim, Hendre
 Men of the match: Dacout
 Attendance: 40,112

day are to do more than stave off relegation again this season.
Goal: Wright (84)
Sheffield Wednesday (4-3-1-2): Pressman; Thorne, Walker, Corbin, Hinchcliffe; Achernon, Jonk, Rudi, Carbone; Booth, Di Canio. Substitutes not used: Whittingham, Hyde, Clarke (gk), Oakes, Barrett.
West Ham United (3-2-3-2): Hisslop; Pearce, Ruddock, Ferdinand; Impey, Lomas; Lickfield, Berhove (Moncur 84), Larmann, Clarke, Woods. Substitutes not used:

Wright celebrates his strike

MORE OF THE MALDIVES
THE MALDIVES
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7 SCORE DRAWS	38	£2,034
6 SCORE DRAWS	1,125	£137
5 SCORE DRAWS	13,252	£5

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